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Clinton to head anti-terror summit next week

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton will make a quick trip to the Middle East next week, probably on Wednesday, to preside over an extraordinary conference of Arab and Israeli leaders dedicated to curbing terrorism, officials in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday.

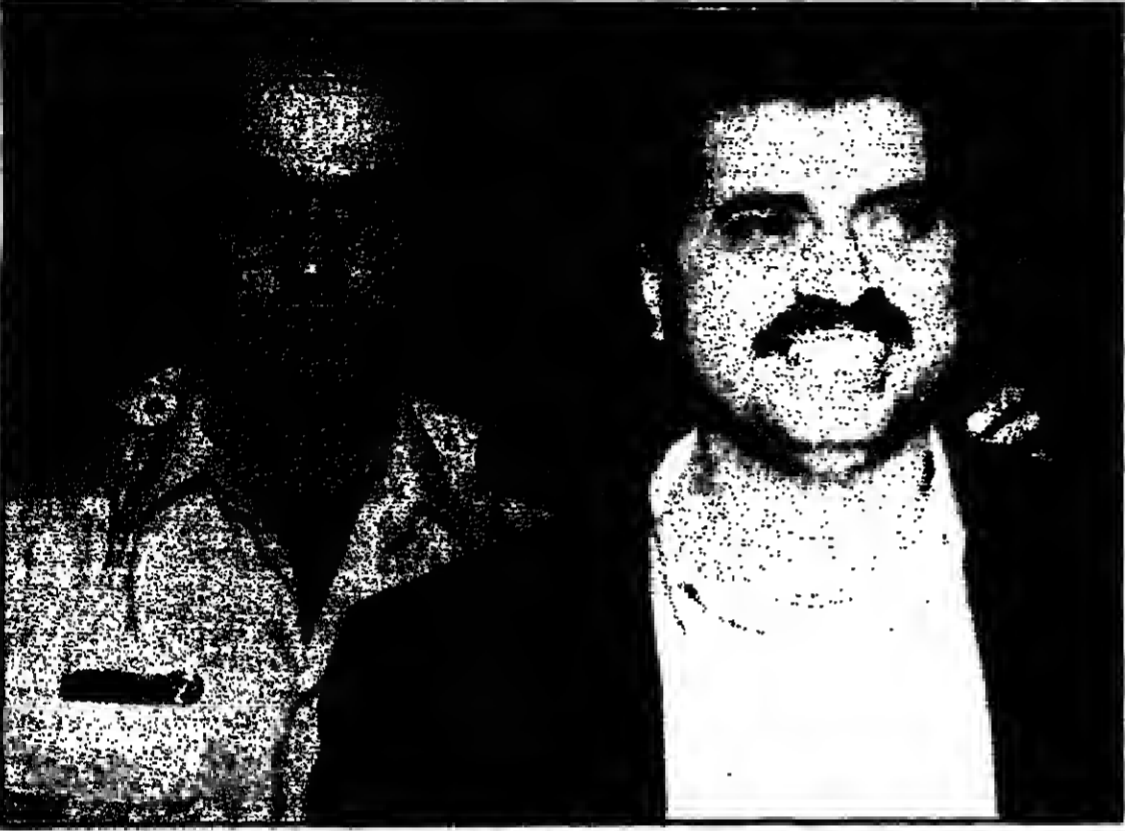
Cairo, since many Gulf and North African leaders refuse to step on Israeli soil. It remains unclear how many will come and whether those who do will be heads of government or foreign ministers.

DAVID MAKOVSKY, HILLEL KUTTLER and agencies Damascus could not bring itself to extend condolences over the four recent bombings.

though measures that Arafat is being asked to take against Hamas militants. White House spokesman Michael McCurry said the speculations about the conference "may be right eventually, but they're not right now."

other leaders to do everything we can to continue to build support for the peace process and to continue to find ways that we can combat terror," McCurry said.

McCurry said the US has "a great deal of diplomacy underway at this hour" to explore the convening of a successful summit.



Umm el-Fahm deputy mayor Dr. Saliman Agbariah is remanded yesterday for providing funds to families of Hamas terrorists.

Deputy mayor held for aiding terrorists' families

UMM el-Fahm deputy mayor Dr. Saliman Agbariah, 39, suspected of transferring millions of shekels to the families of Hamas terrorists, was remanded for four days yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

He denied police allegations that over the past four years he has transferred funds, via two non-profit organizations, to the families of terrorists.

"We operate legally and transfer money to orphans and the needy, including children of collaborators," he said before the hearing.

According to police, the funds have totaled NIS 10 million a year since the end of 1991. The donations came from Israeli Arabs, the Lebanon and Palestinian Relief Fund and Interpal in Britain, and organizations in Germany and the US.

Supt. Danny Yisrael said police have information that the families of the suicide bombers who carried out the attacks in Jerusalem, Ashkelon, and Tel Aviv were about to request aid.

RAINE MARCUS "We have substantial evidence, based on two searches of the office of the Islamic Rescue Fund in Nazareth, as well as new information received recently," he said.

Yisrael said in court that police have evidence that the family of the murderer of border policeman Nissim Toledano and others have received monthly aid.

Judge George Kara slammed police for failing to bring the investigation material to court as required by law.

Of the five classified documents presented to him by Yisrael, Kara said that only one contained substantial evidence.

"Unfortunately, the police representative did not bring material to present to the court to

enable me to examine independently the basis for suspicions," Kara said. "Therefore, my attitude to the confidential evidence must be as intelligence information only, in the absence of the criminal file. I don't understand why police acted this way and if the allegations were not so serious, I would not hesitate to take the extreme step and to release the suspect immediately."

Agbariah was the chairman of the Islamic Rescue Fund until the beginning of 1995 and could not possibly have known personally the details of the thousands of requests filed, defense lawyer Mahmeed Mustafa said, denying any connection between his client and Hamas.

But Yisrael insisted that Agbariah knew he was donating money to families of Hamas terrorists, which would constitute membership in the organization.

"We could not check out all 10,000 names we found on computer discs," Yisrael said, "but, as an example, we found that out of 21 Jerusalem residents 20 are known Hamas members."

Polls give Netanyahu slight lead

SARAH HONG FOR the first time since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu has a slight edge over the Labor incumbent. Polls commissioned by the afternoon papers and one conducted at mid-week for Channel 1 give Netanyahu a lead of two percent to three percent.

Mina Tzemah's poll to appear this morning in Yediot Aharonot gives Netanyahu a 3% edge over Prime Minister Shimon Peres, while a Gallup poll to appear today in Ma'ariv shows Netanyahu ahead by 2%.

A Smith poll for Channel 1 gives him 48% and Peres 46%. Prior to the assassination, Netanyahu had maintained a narrow lead over Rabin, but for months afterward Peres enjoyed a lead which at times exceeded 20%.

A week earlier, the same poll gave Peres 45% and Netanyahu 44%. With the margin of error at 4%, both this week's and last week's results essentially show a (Continued on Page 16)

Levy, Eitan dispute delays Likud deal

WILL Tsomet's Rafael Eitan or Geshet's David Levy be Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's number two?

SARAH HONG followed Netanyahu on the list and should not be penalized for his largesse towards Levy. Moreover, he didn't want to be penalized for making a deal with the Likud before Levy. Eitan also noted that his party has a proven track record and won eight Knesset seats in 1992, while the polls show Levy's untried party badly losing ground.

The polls are believed to be behind Netanyahu's less pressured attitude towards dealing with Levy. Weekend polls to be released this morning reportedly show him ahead of Shimon Peres. (Continued on Page 16)

Gerer Rebbe dies at 69

TENS of thousands of followers of Pinhas Menachem Alter, the rebbe of Gur, weathered rain and lashing winds yesterday to lay him to rest next to his father in the courtyard of the Sfat Emet Yeshiva in Jerusalem's Geula section.

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Table with columns: SHARBAT, BEGINS, ENDS. Rows: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, BeerSheva, Eilat.

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WEATHER... Around the... h leaders... erground... J.P. Friday Edition... SHARBAT... BEGINS... ENDS... 08031006

Palestinian Council meets for first time

THE 88-member Palestinian Council elected in January convened for the first time yesterday and, after ceremonial speeches, elected chief Oslo negotiator Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) assembly president 57-31 over Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, a strong critic of the Oslo agreement.

The position puts Qreia first in line to succeed Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat as president of the executive council.

The vote went to Arafat's choice, and marks the limit of the potential opposition voice inside the council.

The council met in Gaza's Shawa Cultural Center, as the parliament building is not large enough to hold all the guests. The chief significance of the session for Israel is that it means the far

JON IMMANUEL

larger Palestinian National Council must now convene by May 7 to amend the Palestinian Covenant.

The council members were sworn in by acting PNC chairman Salim Zaanoun and all became members of the PNC as well.

In his speech, Arafat said: "We must respect the time schedule for the stages of peace," which he said include the withdrawal from Hebron this month, and the opening of final settlement talks and the change in the Covenant in two months.

He did not mention moving up the PNC meeting to late March to ensure a smooth Hebron withdrawal. Many council members would object to any change in the schedule.

Hanan Ashrawi was one of 10

council members voted to the legal committee, which will establish a basic law for the council. The council will meet again in two weeks.

All 88 members arrived for the opening, after West Bank delegates received permission from the IDF to attend despite the closure, but many were kept waiting for four hours by the IDF before being allowed into Gaza, complained Salah Taamari from Bethlehem.

Consular officials and other foreign dignitaries attended the opening, which was marred by the tension created by the recent Islamic terror attacks and the closure which followed. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa and Jordanian State Minister Abdel-Hadi Majall both addressed the assembly.

"THE forces of darkness and terrorism" cannot be allowed to defeat the peace process, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat said yesterday at the opening session of the Palestinian Council.

He attacked those "who planned and ordered the last crisis in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Ashkelon, which led to the deaths of dozens of innocent people - Israelis, Palestinians, and foreigners. It is against all religious, human, and national values."

Pre-empting a later announcement from Israeli government sources, Arafat said that "I invite all the nations of the world to confront this violence and terror, to uproot it. I submit a suggestion to all parties concerned with a just peace to hold a meeting at the highest level to prevent more bloody violence and to treat it as a regional and international phenomenon."

Arafat did not directly mention Hamas or Islamic extremism as the culprit in his speech, but he has ordered police to raid the Islamic university, mosques, and other

JON IMMANUEL

locations. They uncovered arms, including sticks of TNT and belts for putting them in which could be tied round the waists of suicide bombers.

An estimated 400 Gazans have been arrested.

Meanwhile Hamas issued a leaflet, at least the sixth by Hamas and its armed wing Izzadin Kassam in the past 10 days, denying the authenticity of the earlier leaflets which indicated it is ready to give up violence. It called them "part of a conspiracy."

Arafat alluded to a conspiracy himself, repeating statements that Israeli and Palestinian extremists, met together. He waved an article from the weekly *Yerushalayim* claiming Avishai Raviv, the alleged General Security Service agent and founder of Eyal, met with Palestinian extremists to undermine the PA. "These are his declarations in a newspaper in Hebrew," Arafat said.

Planning Minister Nabil Shaath backed

down from charges he made in Paris that Israeli extremists actually helped Hamas in the four terror attacks, but said, "The important thing is to see who are the beneficiaries," whom he identified as the Israeli Kibbutz, "whom he identified as the Israeli Kibbutz."

He accused Israel of imposing an unnecessary closure as "a collective punishment rather than as a necessary security measure. It is unfair, he said, because 'not one worker has ever been accused of committing a terror attack.'"

Imad Falouji, the one senior Hamas activist elected to the council (as an independent on the Fatah ticket), who was expelled from Hamas, expressed his "sadness" at the loss of life, but added that attacks like those last week "can be expected until the Palestinians are given all their rights."

The bombings and their ramifications have nevertheless shocked Palestinians, even as they criticize the Israeli response. A teacher at al-Azhar University came up to an Israeli reporter on the street and said, "You should know we feel your sadness."

Arafat: Terror cannot be allowed to defeat the peace process

Orient House bill passes first reading

LIAT COLLINS

IN a parliamentary slap in the face to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the Likud managed to pass first reading of the so-called Orient House bill, which calls for the closure of Palestinian political institutions operating in Jerusalem.

The bill, initiated by Interior Committee chairman Yehoshua Matza, passed 49-36. Third Way MKs Avigdor Kahalani and Emanuel Zissman voted with the opposition. Peres was not present for the vote.

Presentation of the bill was colored by the recent terror attacks and, in particular, the television interview with Peres in which he said he was "not surprised" that Mohammed Abu Warda, who recruited two of the suicide bombers, had stated said the aim of the attacks was to bring the Likud to power and halt the peace process.

While Matza fumed that in no other country could the premier say such things, Labor MK Dalia Itzik shouted: "But the Hamas really does want to help the Likud."

on sentence for those found to be operating Orient House and similar Palestinian centers in Jerusalem.

Matza said the vote was a test of the government's intention to act against violations of the Oslo accords "and to strengthen our rights in Jerusalem."

Matza's rage increased when Speaker Shevah Weiss proposed forwarding the bill to the Law Committee for preparation for second and third readings. Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) is expected to try to hurry the bill, whereas Matza's own committee could expedite its passage.

Bill Hutman adds PLO official Faisal Husseini said yesterday that the Knesset's passing on first reading of a bill to close Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, does not have him worried. "I understand that the bill will now go to some committee, and that it will not be heard of again by the Knesset until after the election," he said.

Chief liaison officer: PA crackdown bearing fruit

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THERE has been a turning point in Palestinian cooperation with Israeli security forces, and the pressure on the Palestinian Police to root out Islamic terrorists is starting to bear fruit, Col. Moshe Elad, chief liaison officer with the Palestinians, said yesterday.

"We have a common target now," he said, adding the Palestinian Police are avoiding friction with Israeli forces in the West Bank.

"It is a turning point," Elad said. "The Palestinian forces are starting to act against Hamas terrorists, but they have yet to apprehend the main activists."

Elad said two armed forces operating in the West Bank is a potential recipe for disaster, but so far the Palestinian Police have stepped out of the way when Israeli troops move into villages they patrol.

Since Sunday, Israel has arrested 170 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, Elad said.

The Palestinian police are more keenly

aware now of the crisis and have carried out mass arrests, but many are held for only a short time and let go, he said.

"They have still not brought in the heads of the Hamas military wing," Elad said. "We are not interested in their actions, but in results and we are not yet satisfied."

He noted that the army and Border Police have beefed up patrols along the Green Line, and are expected to deploy in all areas officially under Israeli control, even out of the way villages the IDF has recently avoided.

To further seal off the territories, bulldozers were reported dumping large boulders and quantities sand along back roads and paths near Kalkilya and Tulikarm to prevent Arab laborers from sneaking in.

The Civil Administration said all work permits held by Gazans are now invalid, and that

new ones will be issued soon. Moshe Karif, a spokesman for the coordinator of activities in the territories, said the closure is keeping some 20,000 Gazans from their jobs in Israel. It is not likely they will be allowed to start returning until next week at the earliest, he added.

The army has started expelling Gazans connected with Hamas and Islamic Jihad from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip, Elad said. He said Israel has pressured the Palestinian Authority to do the same in the PLO-ruled areas, but they "have a problem with this." He said a few hundred Gazans, mostly students, are the main Hamas activists in the West Bank.

The army lifted the closure for 12 hours yesterday to allow Palestinians travel to other villages to stock up on food and other supplies. But by 7 p.m., all Palestinians in the West Bank were confined to their towns and villages.

Shahal: We gave PA name of bombings' planner

LIAT COLLINS

ISRAEL has forwarded to the Palestinian Authority the name of the Hamas member who planned the recent attacks and where he can be found, and is waiting for his arrest, Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal told the Knesset yesterday.

He was answering several motions to the agenda on the second No. 18 bus bombing. Shahal said Israel is waiting for the PA to

take "serious action" against the terror organizers in the areas under its control, and warned that Israel could not accept that terrorists are tried, imprisoned, and freed by the PA. "We want a serious answer to this problem," he said.

Shahal also lashed out at Israeli employers who bring illegal

workers across the Green Line, "endangering lives because of greed and the desire to avoid taxes."

He said the actions of the PA and Yasser Arafat following the terror attacks are a test of the Oslo accords. "An agreement cannot be one-sided. If one side

doesn't act it's inconceivable that the other will carry out the agreement," he said.

He said no compromise with Hamas is possible because the organization cannot accept Israel's sovereignty. "[With Hamas] either you win or you're destroyed," he said.

Apart from promising tighter (Continued on Page 20)

Police have no evidence driver knew passenger was bomber

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE still have no concrete evidence that the Israeli Arab suspected of smuggling the Dizengoff Center suicide bomber from Gaza to the site of the blast knew about the attacker's intentions beforehand.

According to the suspect's version of events, he believed he was simply transporting a Palestinian from Gaza who wanted to work in Israel.

The suspect, 45, from a Beduin village in the Jezreel Valley, allegedly received \$1,100 from an Islamic Jihad activist in Gaza to transport the man from the Karmi checkpoint to Dizengoff Center.

The father of eight reportedly told police that it was only after the explosion, a minute or two after he dropped his passenger off in Dizengoff, that it occurred to him that the man might have been a suicide bomber.

The case with which Palestinians can cross from the territories into Israel was undermined when police in Nazareth arrested an imam at a local mosque. The imam was from a Palestinian refugee camp near Jenin.

The Moslem cleric, 37, had been staying at the mosque and leading prayers there for the past two months. He told police he had crossed into Israel in a car belonging to an Israeli Arab which bypassed roadblocks and traveled through Umm el-Fahm to Nazareth.

Ch.-Supt. Shinnel Mermelstein, commander of the Nazareth police station, said the suspect, who had no permit to be in Israel, was not cooperating with police in their attempts to identify his driver.

Mermelstein noticed, however, that there was a new phenomenon among Israeli Arabs who had started to turn in Palestinians staying in Israel illegally.

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Pavis Hazzak drawing, the holder of ticket number 486348 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 415791 won a car.

Tickets numbered 401600, 033436, 480511, 789090, 303883, 600357, 382011 and 752525 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 61946, 81845, 28104, 65644, 06385, 69475, 89093, 52401, 02247, 07293, 82308, 74500, 18778, 57674, 14446, 94439, 62085, 66319 and 46857 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 875, 760, 146, 176, and 412 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 73, 97, 00, 27 and 02 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 2 and 7 won NIS 8.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, king of hearts, ten of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

CLARIFICATION

The last line of "A Family Affair" in today's *Magazine* was inadvertently omitted. It should read: "But they never spoke out because they were scared of the spotlight."

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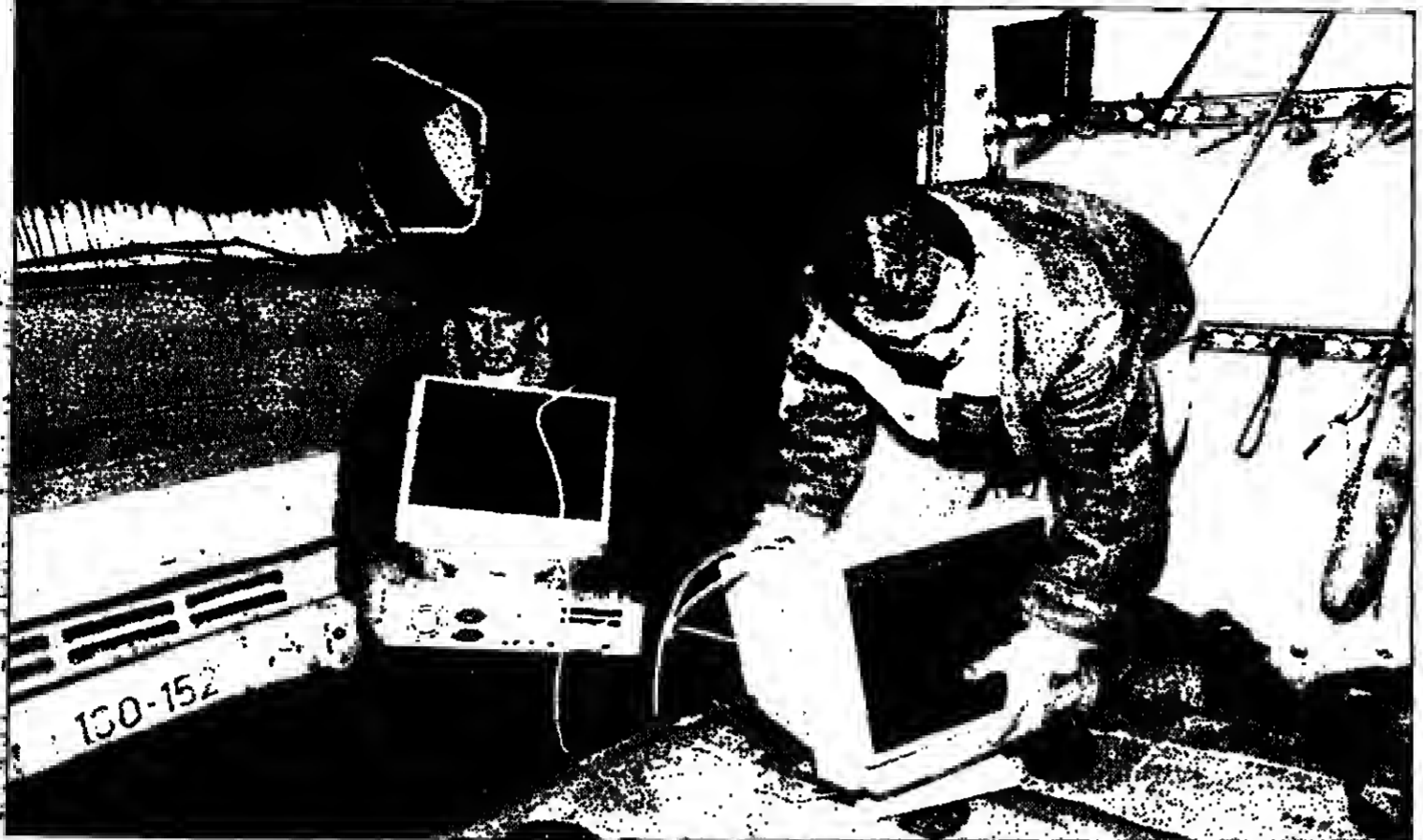
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Police remove computers from the Society of Islamic Science and Culture Committee yesterday. (Khaled Zighari)

Police close Islamic center in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE shut down an Islamic institution in Jerusalem allegedly affiliated with Hamas yesterday, the first of a handful of such organizations in the city slated to be closed in response to the recent suicide attacks.

The head of the institution, senior Hamas member Jamil Hamami, apparently fled Jerusalem to seek refuge in Ramallah. He was questioned yesterday by the Palestinian Police, but was released afterwards and allowed to remain in the city, according to Palestinian sources.

Police alleged that the Society of Islamic Science and Culture Committee, near the A-Ram building, the bottom floor of which is being used as a kindergarten. Four office workers were the only people present when police arrived, and they left the building without incident.

Palestinian sources said the institute dealt solely in welfare and educational activities, and that Hamami, while well-known as a senior Hamas member, was among the moderates who both Israel and the PA were counting on, before the recent wave of attacks.

Hamami, in recent interviews in the Palestinian press, condemned the attacks, and called for reconciliation between the PA and Hamas.

The 14-day closure order was signed by Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, in accordance with articles 5b and 6b of the Anti-Terror Act of 1948, a police spokesman said. Police sources said the closure would likely be made permanent in the coming days.

In the meantime, police bolted shut the entrances to the two-story

Likud fuming over Peres reaction to Abu Warda comment

SARAH HONIG

THE political cauldron continued to boil yesterday over Prime Minister Shimon Peres's reaction to Hamas terrorist Mohammed Abu Warda's assertion that the recent attacks were committed to help the Likud gain power.

While Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said he is "willing to overlook and forgive Peres," the rest of his party continued to decry Peres's comments.

In Labor, there was generally an air of embarrassment over the episode, though some continued to barp on the terrorist's message.

The row began when Abu Warda, accused of recruiting the Jerusalem and Ashkelon bombers, contended in a Channel 1 interview on Wednesday night that Hamas's objective was to help Likud defeat Labor and thereby stymie the peace process. He was speaking from the PLO jail in which he is held.

Peres was shown listening to the interview and nodding as Abu Warda talked. He then said he "wasn't surprised. I had known this all along, but I did not want to fan the flames ... now the picture is complete."

The Likud maintained that Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub forced Abu Warda to say this as part of the PLO's attempt to help Labor. Peres, the Likud contended, was guilty of colluding with Arafat to blame the Likud for the terror outrages.

While the rest of his party was steaming, Netanyahu strove to appear the voice of moderation.

"This is definitely an odious maneuver on [Yasser] Arafat's part. He obviously thinks little of the intelligence of the Israeli public if he sought to sway opinions with such a transparent provocation," Netanyahu said. "That same morning, Abu Warda cited revenge as the motive, but after Jibril Rajoub attended to him in his torture chambers, Abu Warda declaimed the text dictated to him."

"As for Peres, I prefer to believe that this was just a momentary failure of good judgment on his part ... In these days of flared tempers, Peres should have exercised leadership and sought to calm the storm. I hope he will take his words back and not repeat this failure in the future, though I am sure that Arafat will repeat his attempts to interfere crudely in our political process."

Netanyahu also said that "because of the need to preserve national unity, I prefer to gloss over Peres's error in judgment."

But other Likud MK's did not feel this way. "Something outrageous has taken place," Dan Meridor said. "I am not surprised by Arafat's need to come to Peres's aid at a time like this, even via a transparently counterfeit confession. But I am surprised at Peres. He should have immediately stated unequivocally that there is no basis whatsoever to these lies uttered by murderers. Instead he said something terrible, and it was painful to see him give credence to such a provocation."

Meridor dismissed the statement Peres's spokeswoman Aliza Goren released, which read: "No one accuses the Likud of collaborating with Hamas."

"It is not enough and there should be an open official apology from Peres, not from his spokeswoman," Meridor said.

The Likud pointed to the reaction of Labor MK Haggai Merom by way of highlighting the deficiencies of the Goren communique. Merom said that "while the Likud is not cooperating with Hamas, it is an open secret that Hamas wants to bring the Likud to power and that Hamas carries on its operations in order to help the Likud's electoral campaign."

Meanwhile, Trade and Industry Minister Micha Harish appealed to President Ezer Weizman to intervene "in view of the unbridled incitement by the Likud against Peres."

Interior Minister Haim Ramon also maintained that "if anyone is at fault in this episode, it is not Peres but Netanyahu. He is the one making the most cynical use of terror attacks."

However, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer was more apprehensive that the episode may backfire on Peres and Labor. He "assured the Likud that no one in Labor accuses them of hatching plots with Hamas, and there is no one in Labor who believes that the Likud has anything to do with Hamas."

"Let's just drop this whole subject. The reactions to this whole Abu Warda thing have made me laugh. It's all just too silly."

Senior police officers face disciplinary action

BILL HUTMAN

THE head of the Police Fraud Division, Cmdr. Yerahmiel Halparin, and two other senior division officers face disciplinary action for prematurely closing the original investigation into wrongdoing at the Interior Ministry's eastern Jerusalem office.

A Justice Ministry spokeswoman said the officers were found by the ministry's Police Investigations Division "to have been negligent in carrying out their duties." However, the three were cleared of any criminal wrongdoing, she said.

The three destroyed documents uncovered by investigators on the operations of the Interior Ministry's eastern Jerusalem office several years ago before reviewing the material and closed the case, when if they checked the papers they would have found reason to continue the inquiry, according to police sources.

The investigation was reopened last year, after *Yediot Aharanot* exposed alleged wrongdoing at the office. Several senior ministry officials now face charges.

A police spokesman said the Police Investigations Division's recommendations had not yet been received.

Arab intellectuals denounce attacks

JUDY SIEGEL AND BILL HUTMAN

DOZENS of scientists from around the world, including two recipients of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, yesterday called on Palestinian academics and intellectuals to condemn terrorist attacks against Israel.

At the same time, Palestinian academics from a cross-section of political affiliations issued a statement in Jerusalem strongly condemning the recent Hamas suicide attacks, and appealing to the government to "refrain from collective punishment of Palestinian society."

The scientists are attending the Seventh Otin Loewi Meeting on Cellular and Molecular Aspects of Synaptic Transmission at the Hebrew University. They come from the US, Canada, Europe, Japan, Turkey, and Israel. Among the most noted are Prof. Edwin Neher and Bert Sakmann, both Nobel laureates from Germany.

The scientists, in a signed document, offered their "deepest sympathy with the victims of the recent savage attacks against Israeli citizens and with their relatives and friends. We strongly condemn all terrorist attacks and thoroughly support the continuation of the negotiations for peace."

They added that they expect Palestinians in the academic and intellectual community to take a "similar and unambiguous public position."

In a statement released after a meeting at the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs, Palestinian academics said: "We condemn such attacks on principle as morally indefensible and call on the perpetrators to immediately desist from any further attacks."

PASSIA is one of the leading local think tanks bringing together Palestinian academics, activists, and officials from various political backgrounds to discuss the peace process, with recent meetings also including Israeli academics.

"Violence does not lead to conflict resolution, but only to more violence," the statement said. "Such actions gravely endanger the process of reconciliation between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. In addition, they endanger the process of reconstruction and development of Palestinian society and the prospects for the establishment of a democratic and stable Palestinian state."

Leaders of British Jewry coming on solidarity visit

BATSHEVA TSUR

AT a time when many persons have cancelled their trips to Israel, more than 30 leaders of the British Jewish community are due to arrive here on a solidarity mission.

The leaders of the Joint Israel Appeal, headed by JIA chairman Brian Kerner, and accompanied by Chairman of the Zionist Federation Howard Schavriren and the chief rabbi's representative, Rabbi Edward Jackson, will fly in on a day-and-a-half long visit on Sunday.

The decision to bold the solidarity mission was taken at mid-week.

In addition to meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the British community leaders will tour the sites of the past two weeks' bombings, accompanied by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo.

At Ichilov Hospital, where they will visit the wounded from the Dizengoff-center bombing, the visiting leaders will also donate blood.

New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani is to arrive Sunday for a two-day solidarity visit. Giuliani spoke with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday and expressed his condolences and solidarity with the city of Jerusalem. During his visit, he is to meet with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, President Ezer Weizman and Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu.

Meanwhile, 100 students at the Hebrew Union College's Jerusalem campus have decided that they will remain in Israel despite pressure from their families to return to the US.

Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, World President of HUC who arrived in Jerusalem to discuss the matter with his students and express solidarity, told them yesterday that the HUC was "very proud" of their decision.

Zimmerman said that the HUC would be guided by the State Department advisory to persons visiting Israel not to use public transportation. To this end, the college is planning to operate its own bus to ferry students to and from the campus, he said.

Weizman: Do not condemn all Arabs

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE entire Arab population should not be condemned because of the wrongdoings of one "villain," President Ezer Weizman warned yesterday.

"We must not turn all the Arabs in Israel into our enemies at a time when we are trying to achieve peace," Weizman said.

He noted that peace in the region should be preceded by peace between the Jews and Arabs living inside Israel.

"If there is one scoundrel among them, that does not mean that all the Arabs have to be regarded as [members of] an enemy camp," he said, adding that the Jews also have their own "villain."

Weizman was speaking during a visit to the soldiers wounded in Lebanon on Monday. They are currently hospitalized at Haifa's Rambam Hospital. One of the soldiers killed in the incident was a Druze and two were Beduin.

The president told a wounded Beduin soldier, "I take my hat off to the Druze, the Beduin, and the other minorities who have fought so valiantly in the IDF. They are excellent soldiers and officers. I know them."

He said that when he heard about the Lebanon incident, he figured that it had been Beduin trackers who had been hurt since they usually went forward first.

Weizman also paid condolence calls to the family of Beduin tracker St.-Sgt. Mahmoud Ju'ama, of Arab el-Aramshe, and to the family of Lt.-Col. Hussein Amir Ali Amar in Julis village. They were both killed in the attack.

Ben-Eliahu new OC Air Force

THE IDF named Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu, a veteran fighter pilot and current assistant to the head of the Operations Branch as the next OC Air Force. He will replace Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger, who will retire. The appointment, which was expected, is slated to go into effect in a number of months, the IDF spokesman said.

Ben-Eliahu, who was once Bodinger's deputy, will be replaced by Amos Malcha, a brigadier from the armored corps. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Vienna Boys Choir cancels visit

THE Vienna Boys Choir is not coming for a scheduled concert tour. The famed Vienna troupe, set to perform four concerts starting March 15, canceled its tour on Wednesday because of the terror attacks in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. *Helen Kave*

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A shocking remark

UNDERSTANDABLY, the Labor Party would rather forget Prime Minister Shimon Peres's statement on Israel Televisioo (Channel 1) on Wednesday night. It is a remark with few equals even in the far-from-wholesome history of Israeli politics.

That Peres was on the defensive is hardly surprising. Only three days before the first bombing in Jerusalem he glowingly praised Yasser Arafat for the superb, efficient way he was curbing terrorism. That oow even Arafat's ardent Western fans are exhorting him for failing in this task must embarrass his fellow Nobel laureate and most enthusiastic promoter.

Nor should it astonish anyone that Peres expressed continuing faith in the Oslo process and belittled the size and importance of the group responsible for the bombings. Having invested all his political capital in the Oslo agreements, he would obviously rather believe that only a tiny group of small-time criminals and insane fanatics stand in the way of its successful realization.

But what happened oext in this interview beggars belief. For reasons still utterly incomprehensible, ITV asked Peres to watch, on screen, an interview with Mohammed Abu Warda, the Hamas operative who had allegedly recruited the suicide bombers. Asked what the purpose of the bombings was, Abu Warda said they were designed to help the Likud defeat Labor in the elections. As Yediot Aharonot correspondent and avid supporter of the Oslo agreements Nahum Barnea put it, "an odious, transparent and primitive exercise."

Intelligence sources have it that Abu Warda was carefully rehearsed for this television charade by his captor, Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub. Indeed, the most inexperienced novice could discern that Warda had been tortured and coached. Even his ITV interviewer Yoram Cohen said, "I realize this man said these things after being interrogated by the Palestinian security services, and it is possible he was told what to say."

Moreover, his first interview - with the Palestinian radio network - contained none of the charges he made on ITV. Yet ITV, and some of the foreign media, seemed determined to take the interview at face value.

It is not difficult to guess the purpose of such an exercise. "Rajoub understands that the recent terrorist strikes are forcing the Israel government to push Arafat to the wall," writes Barnea. "He wants to release pressure. He dictates to Abu Warda a story about a Hamas

decision to launch terrorist strikes to help the Likud in the elections. Abu Warda rehearses the story, and Israel Televisioo is invited to interview him."

The decision to screen such a blatantly staged and fabricated interview is questionable enough. To feature it during a talk with the prime minister at a critical time betrays disastrous judgment. But for Peres oot only to respond to such a charge seriously but to give it credence is simply unacceptable.

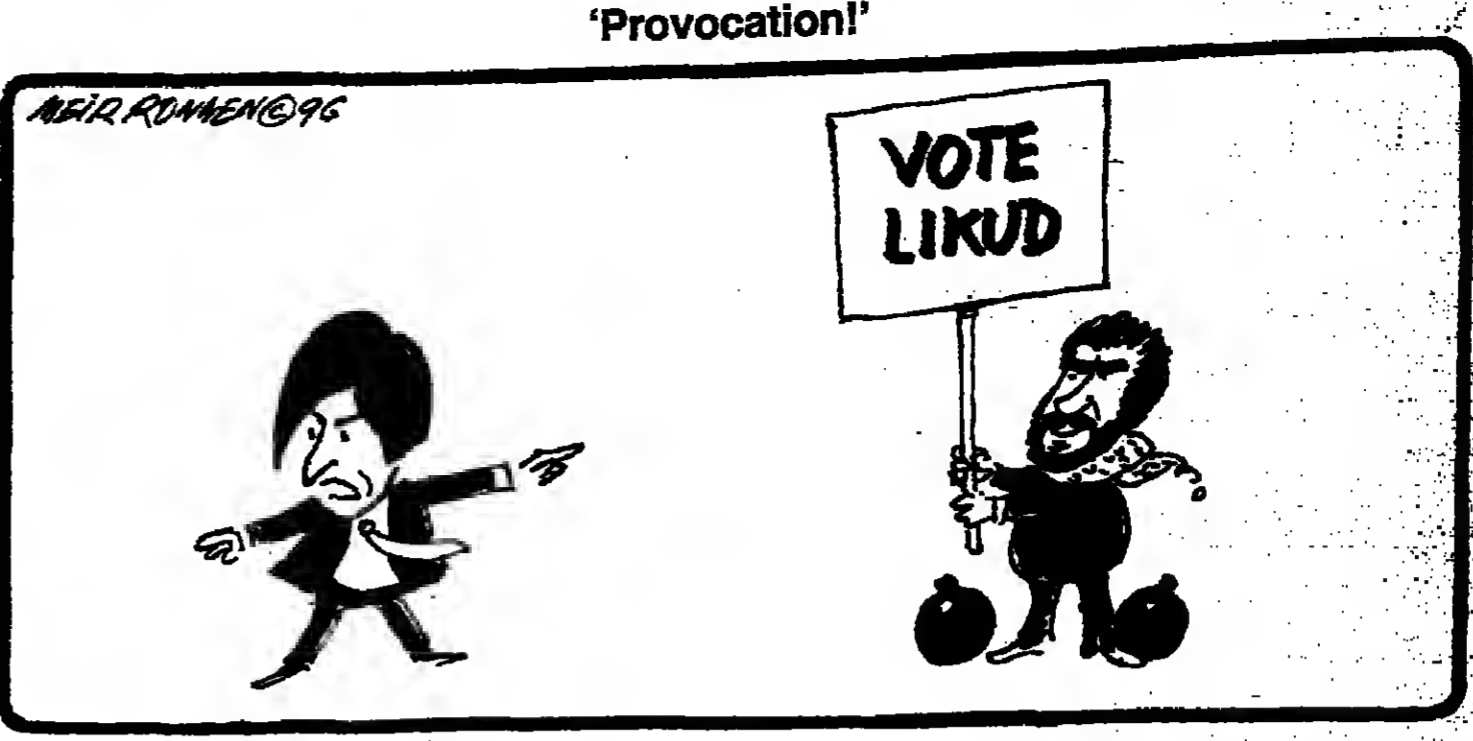
He should have said, as Barnea put it, "This man is a disgusting murderer. I doo't believe a word he says." Instead, Peres pounced on Abu Warda's fabrication as on a political treasure, saying: "To be completely frank, this didn't surprise me. I didn't want to use this argument, in order to avoid fanning fires from inside. But oow the picture is complete."

As if on a signal, Peres's ministers chimed in. Health Minister Ephraim Soeh said: "I am sure the voters will oot let Hamas achieve its aim. They will vote for the government Hamas wants to topple." Tourism Minister Uzi Baram joined with, "Even before I heard this and learned of Hamas's real intentions, I said it was ridiculous that...only Hamas can increase Netanyahu's popularity."

The real goal of the attacks was made clear by the Hamas representative to the oegotiations with the PLO in Cairo, Khaled Mash'al. "We view our military operations as a factor which helps the Palestinian oegotiator," he said. It would understate the case to say that neither the Palestinian Authority nor the government feels comfortable with this explanation.

That Rajoub would manufacture a provocation to deflect world anger is only natural. The tactic is, after all, in the hallowed tradition of totalitarian states whose practices serve as models for Palestinian propaganda exercises. The charge also fits nicely into Arafat's blood libel, which he voices after every terrorist action, to the effect that Israeli "extremists" make the bus bombings possible by assisting the Palestinians who commit them.

One should like to hope that Barnea is right in saying Arafat and his lieutenants betray a basic lack of understanding of the Israeli public's intelligence. An even more fervent hope must be that Peres merely let himself slip into a blunder when tempted by an opportunity to score a political point. For it would be discouraging indeed to discover that Peres knew in advance about the fake interview and approved its screening.



With courage and restraint

CHAIM HERZOG

Forty-eight years ago I experienced the bombing of the Jewish Agency building, in which my wife was very seriously injured. Twelve people were killed and many wounded. It came in the wake of two other major explosions in Jerusalem within the same month: One destroyed the building of The Palestine Post, as this newspaper was called then, the other, on Ben-Yehuda Street, killed over 50 people and left large numbers wounded.

In the Palestine Post explosion, I was one of the rescue workers. My wife and I survived the Ben-Yehuda explosion miraculously. We passed the truck loaded with dynamite exactly one minute before it blew up.

These tragic events recall many others. At the onset of the War of Independence, as we struggled literally for our very existence, we faced many harrowing trials and tribulations.

We had endured a siege in Jerusalem without water and food, as 10,000 shells landed in the city. But we survived it with determination, and in most cases succeeded in brushing off the feeling of danger, both national and personal.

I do not remember any case of publicly expressed fear or hopelessness - perhaps because we experienced reality firsthand, not through television at home.

Today, our capabilities are more extensive and our situation bears no relation to that which we experienced then. But much can be done to lift the nation's spirit, to strengthen its faith in the righteousness of its path, and bolster its ability to meet challenges.

Of course, facts should not be covered up. But the media must evaluate its part in shaping the national will.

How are the results of the

attacks presented? What is the journalistic value of pictures of profusely bleeding bodies or of a mother in tears at her son's grave? Do such photographs contribute to anything but demoralization?

Restraint, and consideration of the national interest, must walk hand in hand.

The media have a duty at the very least to avoid exaggeration and excessive repetitiveness. We have to find new ways to create national unity and a preparedness to face up to the dangers.

Too often journalists ask interviewees whether or not they are responsible national approach of the opposition in supporting the prime minister in these difficult days.

For some 50 years, I have observed Shimon Peres in periods of crisis and seeming hopelessness. He was always capable of standing up to the most trying challenges calmly, sensibly and with courage in the most difficult and frustrating circumstances.

Of course, we have to examine carefully the defense system responsible for our security.

The IDF is not built to handle such situations. It would be preferable to place the main burden on the Border Police, which is more adept at controlling civil unrest, and remains static in given areas, thus becoming intimately acquainted with the local population and the area under surveillance.

We are also being overfed with daily doses of public-opinion polls (as if we are living on a daily diet of public anxiety), not necessarily conducted on a very scientific basis. We must have a broader picture, over longer periods of time, in order to evaluate our position.

If we continue on the route we have taken and do not give in to pressures and fears, we will win this struggle as individuals, and as a nation.

However, we must not deceive ourselves: There are no simple or easy solutions. As long as we are

We will win this struggle. But stopping the peace process would mean a return to the intifada, or worse

part of the Middle East with its pervasive presence of Islamic fundamentalism, we and other societies around us will have to struggle against terror.

No matter who leads the country, terrorism will continue. Under the conditions prevailing in the area today, it cannot be curbed as long as it is initiated and financed by Iran.

We have to struggle against terror relentlessly, with all the weapons at our disposal. But I do not see any purpose in stopping the peace process, which means returning to the intifada, and perhaps worse.

We have to insist, as indeed the government is doing, that the Palestinian Authority fulfills its part of the agreement and takes an active part in wiping out terrorism.

But it would be unwise to cause the return of the entire Palestinian population to terrorism. It must be made clear to the Palestinians that their fate is intertwined with ours in the battle against terror and extremism.

Let us remember that violence and terror against us have led inevitably to results opposite to those intended by their instigators.

In 1929 we did not give in when the Jews of Hebron were massacred; nor in 1947 when Arab mobs attacked Jews in Aleppo, in Aden, and in Jerusalem, Haifa and Jaffa.

We buried our dead, rolled up our sleeves and created the Jewish state. We did not yield in 1948, when Arab forces besieged Jerusalem and prevented the arrival of food, water and equipment to the city. Following every attack we emerged stronger.

I am convinced that this time, too, we shall prevail.

The writer was Israel's sixth president.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONDEMNATION FROM NABLUS

Sir, - We sincerely express our condemnation of the attacks that claimed so many lives of innocent people and caused so much injury. Our reaction is shared by the majority of our people. They support peace to end the bloodshed on both sides.

We wish to convey through the Israeli/Palestinian Dialogue Group, West Jerusalem, our deep condolences to the families of the victims and our wishes for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The response to such horrible acts must be to increase our efforts to achieve the comprehensive and just peace that we long for.

SAMI KILANY
HILAL TOUFANAH
RAWDA BASSIR
SAHAB SHAHEEN
ABDEL BASSET AL HAYAT
The Palestinian/Israeli Dialogue Group, Nablus

TERROR ATTACKS

Sir, - As regards Arafat's statement, reported by you by February 28 that "Israeli fanatics" were behind the February 25 terrorist attacks, he is only repeating the late Mr. Rabin's accusation, made publicly from the Knesset podium, that there was collaboration between the Likud and Hamas (this type of statement, in the eyes of the Israeli left, was perfectly legitimate and did not qualify as "incitement").

A few days after this statement was made by Rabin, Amos Oz followed up in The New York Times with a big article entitled "The Hamas-Likud connection."

In the oews of February 27, it was reported that Peres, Shabtal and Ramon met "to discuss the implications of Sunday's terror acts on Labor's election chances." It is amazing that the fact that the continued terror turns the whole "peace" process into a charade does oot bother these people; their only concern is how it will affect their chances of being re-elected!

I. BAR-NIR
Sunnyvale, California.

STOP THE PEACE PROCESS

Sir, - Everyone in Israel wants peace, but it is inconceivable that today's government is on the right track, by proclaiming with every disaster, "this will not stop the peace process." What will? We are up against the killers among them, with a mentality we cannot grasp.

We cannot go safely (or at all) in the PA controlled areas; why is the contrary possible? Why continue giving more and more? Why allow Palestinians in and risk the lives of more and more of our people? The PA wants its own state, but it has its areas; let it stay in there and minimize our losses. Do not make more concessions. Let our government stop the process that will oever give peace.

BEN WALLAGE
Zichron Ya'acov.

REMEMBER THE VICTIMS

Sir, - May we suggest that Egged and/or the government establish a memorial to the ordinary people who have lost their lives or have been wounded while traveling on the buses - a small tribute for the families of the victims of these heinous crimes, and to the survivors, so that they do not feel forgotten when the rest of us go on with our lives and theirs are shattered or changed forever.

May we hope for the day when we will no longer need courage to ride the buses.

ROSE SHULMAN
DOREEN FEINGOLD
Haifa.

POOR TASTE

Sir, - I was shocked and disgusted that your February 26 paper chose to print a full-color close-up front-page photo of the bus bombing in Jerusalem. To my eye, more than the ooe body referred to in the caption is visible. Give that this horrific incident occurred locally, how could you be so insensitive as to print a photo with bodies which may in fact be identifiable by the grieving families of the victims?

To show the destruction, you could have chosen a distance shot. In order to honor those dead, you should have chosen not to show their bodies. You owe the families and your readers an apology.

Jerusalem. RENEE HALPERT

We haven't tried everything yet

ARIEL SHARON

WE are at war. War in Jerusalem, war in Tel Aviv, war on the northern border.

It is a situation which should have caused the government to resign. For none of the recent events was unforeseen. Nothing has happened about which the government has not been warned time and again. But it has simply ignored the warnings.

"Where are the barrage of Katyushas on Ashkeloo you promised us?" ministers would sneer. Regrettably, we were o't wrong: What we have now are "live Katyushas," not only in Ashkelon, but in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Evero measures oow being implemented by the government could have been introduced long ago. And we need far more serious measures. The pressures on the Palestinian Authority should have been exerted not last week but two years ago, when the PA began violating every clause in the wretched agreement we signed with it.

It wasn't yesterday that Gaza began harboring the terrorist infrastructure. That dates from the time Yasser Arafat arrived.

Huge quantities of weapons and state-of-the-art explosives are stockpiled in Gaza and transported to Judea and Samaria. Palestinian VIPs who enjoy the right of free passage have been

among those helping to smuggle explosives and weapons to Ramallah in their vehicles.

Arafat himself tried to smuggle Mamdouh Noufal over in his car. Noufal, who planned the massacre of children at Ma'alot, is now living in Kalkilya with the Israeli government's approval.

Since the government now acknowledges that we are at war, I am not demanding its resignation; what I am demanding is that the

Oslo agreements during this period, and work out a more viable peace plan.

ONCE WE succeed in our war against terror - and we can succeed if we show unshakable resolve - we shall also achieve peace. But in this war for the safety of Israel's citizens, we cannot, must not rely on anyone but ourselves.

Hamas and other terror groups

The battle against the murderers must be fought throughout the territories

national, and financial infrastructure. The campaign must be conducted without regard for any Oslo pact restrictions. The agreement, which places severe constraints on us, prevents an effective struggle against terrorism.

I was sorry to hear ministers criticizing the IDF for failing to solve the problem. Since the army has been conditioned for years by the political echelons to believe that the only solution to terrorism is political, it cannot now be blamed for failing to come up with a military solution.

The IDF and other security bodies must be given clear orders and full backing. Forces which need to act in complex situations must know that their superiors are behind them.

Only if we try everything and fail dare we say "There's oot answer to terrorism."

But the simple fact is that we haven't tried everything. The government has preferred to rely on Arafat, and we're seeing the results.

We must extricate ourselves from the confines of old concepts and a paralyzing routine, and begin to show initiative and resourcefulness.

Terrorism can be beaten.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

POSTSCRIPTS

THE FOLLOWING story might well have been history's most unusual telephone service call, related by Pat Routledge of Winnipeg, about when he worked in England.

As a technical background, it is enough to know that it is common practice in the UK to signal a telephone subscriber with 90 volts across one side of a two-wire circuit and ground.

This particular subscriber, an elderly lady with several pets, called to say that her telephone often failed to ring when friends called, but that on the few occasions when it did ring, her dog

always barked first.

Torn between curiosity to see this psychic dog and a realization that standard service techniques might not suffice in this case, Pat proceeded to the scene. Climbing a nearby telephooe pole and booking in his test set, he dialed the number. The phooe didn't ring. He dialed again. The dog barked loudly, followed by a ringing telephone.

Climbing down, Pat found:

1. A dog was tied to the telephone system's ground by an iron chain and collar.
2. The dog was receiving 90 volts of signaling current.
3. After several jolts, the dog was orinating oo the ground and barking.
4. The wet ground now conducted, causing the phone to ring.

A. Schatz

A NON-JEWISH friend of mine in South Africa stopped to assist a motorist experiencing mechanical problems. This is very commendable in South Africa, as due to the crime rate people are not keen to stop on the roads.

My friend managed to help the person, who happened to be an Israeli. In appreciation the Israeli

gave my friend a 100 shekel note, telling him it was approximately the equivalent of 100 rands. As he was leaving for Israel the following day, that was the only currency he had on him.

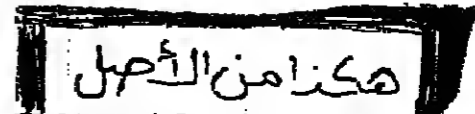
Subsequently my friend, hearing that I was leaving for Israel, asked me to exchange the note for rands. To my amazement, I discovered that the bill was one of the old IS 100 note, which, if it's worth anything, is equivalent to NIS 1.

It is a pity that a person like that gives Israelis a bad name abroad.

Mrs. R. Simpson

Jerusalem. JOSEPH HOFFMAN

Brooklyn, N.Y. FAY DICKER



The Game playing
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A

Game playing

YEHUDA BLUM

The amendment of the PLO Covenant, in accordance with repeated commitments by Yasser Arafat, has now become a crucial test of Arafat's willingness and/or ability to live up to his undertakings under the Oslo accords.

In the September 9, 1993 exchange of letters between Arafat and the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, Arafat undertook "to submit to the Palestinian National Council for formal approval the necessary changes" in the PLO Covenant, so as to eliminate all its provisions that are inconsistent with Israel's right to exist and with his other commitments in the letter - primarily the renunciation of terrorism and his promise "to assure... compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators" of the said undertakings.

Thirty of the 33 clauses of the covenant are incompatible with Arafat's undertakings according to the letter, and therefore have to

Some Foreign Ministry officials seem ready to help the PLO chief wriggle out of his commitments

be eliminated.

To date, Arafat has failed to convene the Palestinian National Council, and the covenant stands unchanged - with its denial of Israel's right to exist (the denial, in fact, of the very existence of Jewish peoplehood), and with its repeated commitments to "armed struggle," the PLO euphemism for terrorism.

When the Cairo agreement on Gaza-Jericho was signed on May 4, 1994, Arafat "sold" this commitment to Israel for a second time. In his letter to Rabin of the same date, he undertook "to submit to the next meeting of the Palestinian National Council" the necessary changes. No such meeting has been convened since.

Subsequently, Arafat's failure to amend the covenant was explained by him and other PLO figures on a variety of grounds, such as his inability to muster the requisite two-thirds majority.

Alternatively, the covenant's amendment was linked to all kinds of conditions, such as Israel's recognition of a Palestinian state, or its acceptance of the return of all those defined by the PLO as "refugees" since 1948.

These and similar conditions have no basis whatsoever in the various Israel-PLO agreements concluded since 1993.

Despite the PLO's blatant non-compliance with its twice-given commitments, Israel signed the Oslo 2 agreement with it on September 28, 1995. In Article 31(9) of that agreement, Arafat undertook - for the third time - to have the relevant provisions of the covenant changed, this time "within two months of the inauguration of the [Palestinian] Council," which was elected on January 20, and which convened for the first time yesterday in Gaza.

To remove any further pretext for the PLO's non-fulfillment, over a period of 30 months, of its commitments with respect to the covenant, Prime Minister Peres



even took a controversial decision: to permit the entry into the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority of members of the Palestinian National Council who have excelled in terrorist exploits, and are still openly opposed to any accommodation with Israel (and thus to the covenant's amendment).

These include members of the rejectionist organizations of George Habash, Ahmed Jibril and Nayef Hawaneh, among them the notorious airplane hijacker Leila Khaled.

Arafat now seems to realize that if the covenant is not amended, both any further "redeployment" by Israel and the final-status negotiations, due to start in May 1996, may be suspended.

Moreover, both he and Peres realize that any further delay in amending the covenant could seriously jeopardize the Labor Party's (and Peres's) chances in the upcoming Knesset elections.

On this point, there is clearly a convergence of interests between Arafat and Peres. Both are naturally interested in the electoral success of Labor and Peres - hence the curious maneuvering in recent weeks in an obvious attempt to

bypass the formal amendment procedure of the covenant, as laid down in that document itself.

STRANGELY and regrettably, even some officials in the Foreign Ministry appear to be willing to play this game.

According to recent reports, some unnamed officials believe that eliminating 30 of the covenant's clauses is going to be difficult for Arafat, and are therefore pessimistic about the prospects of such a scenario.

Instead, Arafat and the government of Israel seem to be discussing some substitute methods. The purpose of these will apparently be to present them to the Israeli electorate as PLO compliance with its undertakings, while simultaneously enabling Arafat to claim to his constituency (his opposition in particular) that he has remained faithful to the PLO's traditional path and objectives.

One of the substitutes apparently under consideration is the adoption of a new covenant that would not call for Israel's destruction, while leaving the old covenant intact.

Such a proposal should have been rejected by Israel out of hand. If accepted, it would enable

the PLO to claim that its original objectives are still valid (including non-recognition of Israel's right to exist).

This would apply in particular if the "new" covenant were to be adopted, as has been suggested by some, by the Palestinian Council elected in January rather than by the PLO's National Council, which adopted the "old" covenant.

Another proposal reportedly under consideration would call for a "resolution" of the Palestinian Council under which anything in the covenant that contradicts the Israel-PLO accords would be considered null and void.

Such a course must also be regarded as a fraud. Since the covenant has, for the PLO, the status of a constitution, no "resolution" of the council or any other decision short of its formal amendment can affect the validity of its provisions.

It is difficult to see why Foreign Ministry officials should be willing to entertain such ideas.

Even more puzzling is the fact that one of the ministry's legal advisers was reported "personally" to favor the adoption by the Palestinian National Council of an "addition" to the covenant that

would declare null and void all references to Israel's destruction.

Quite apart from the fact that most of the repugnant provisions of the covenant are not couched in such explicit terms and would consequently be considered valid, it is unconscionable that any Foreign Ministry official should engage in mental acrobatics designed to extricate Arafat from his obligation to finally comply with his thrice-accepted undertakings.

The Labor Party's electoral interest in manipulating this issue in a manner that would enable it to convince Israel's electorate of Arafat's compliance with this litmus test of his good faith is understandable.

What is less understandable is the reported readiness of some civil servants (and in particular legal professionals) to disregard the ramifications of such manipulations as far as our long-term national interests are concerned.

The writer, a former ambassador to the UN, holds the Herschel Lauterpacht chair in international law at the Hebrew University.

Reality that simply cannot be avoided

MARK A. HELLER

Fifty years of war against terrorism have brought temporary lulls and occasional relief, but no solutions.

If nothing else, therefore, their own experience should lead Israelis to reject the illusion that there is some simple formula, some quick fix that can put an end to this scourge.

Cartloads of experts are trotted out by the media following each attack. But none of them has a real answer to how to end terror, especially of the suicidal variety practiced by psychopaths whose hatred of Israel overwhelms even the most elementary human instinct of self-preservation.

So those who pontificate on the subject - which means most of us, but particularly the political leadership - might do well to start by admitting to a little more uncertainty.

That doesn't mean experience has taught us nothing at all. We have learned that the natural desire to lash out at our tormentors isn't a reliable guide to action, especially if we don't know who or where they are.

If terrorism has a purpose, it is to sow panic and hysteria, and it achieves that purpose when the government is compelled by public outrage to do something, anything, so long as it is seen to be acting.

After each new attack, the politicians and analysts who articulate this rage repeat the familiar litany of generalities - separate security from politics, collect better intelligence, unleash the IDF, take off the gloves, take the initiative, switch from defense to offense, etc. etc.

But when pressed to translate these generalities into specific recommendations, the same experts are usually left groping for answers, because they know that for all the real anger and phony tough talk, Israel will not engage in 19th-century-style "pacification programs" or 20th-century-style "ethnic cleansing."

They know that falling such extreme measures, there are no technical or tactical "magic bullets," and that all the other arrows in the anti-terrorism quiver produce only photo opportunities and short-term gratification.

After a while, curfews and closures are lifted, sealed houses are unsealed, demolished houses are rebuilt, deportees are returned, and the Palestinians affected (and their relatives, neighbors, friends, and disciples) are not only not rehabilitated, but strengthened in their determination to strike again.

So while the urge to act is natural, actions driven by emotion or electoral expediency do not advance the real objective.

To produce longer-lasting effects, Israel's military, police and intelligence efforts must be part of an integrated approach aimed at reducing the motivation of and support for terrorists, and securing the cooperation of a Palestinian Authority willing and able to restrain its own population.

In other words, security cannot be separated from politics.

Indeed, it is precisely in these moments of anguish that we need to stress the political dimension, and especially to refute the non-sensical claim, whether sincere or sarcastic, that Israelis killed or maimed by Palestinian terrorists are victims of peace.

They are victims of war - and there is no way to stop this war without a political settlement.

But having said that, it is also important to understand the limits of politics.

Unless Israel withdraws into the sea, there is no peace that will satisfy all Palestinians. One day, perhaps, we may be able to look forward to the kind of reconciliation that took place between the French and Germans.

But for the foreseeable future, the objective of security must be pursued by disengagement - to get as much of Palestine out of Israel and

We can't really deal with terror until there's a border - and that means a political settlement

as much of Israel out of Palestine as possible, and to control the remaining interaction between the two societies and economies.

And since nature does not provide the means to do this, we must create them artificially, by building a fence or a wall. This is an engineering challenge and a financial burden, but there is a bigger problem: deciding where to put it.

In other words, the most urgent security priority is to demarcate a border, with all that implies for the status of Jerusalem and the future of the settlements.

No decision is more likely to arouse passions in this country, and no issue is as intensely political, but the alternative is to settle for a futile debate over operational questions.

And if, for the sake of unity, we defer a political settlement until we have security, we will continue to have neither the one nor the other.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

A drastic change in approach

A.M. ROSENTHAL

After three bombing massacres of Israelis and secret warnings by Israel's intelligence that more were coming, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Israel was at war with the Palestinian Hamas terrorists "in every sense of the word."

So the next day the terrorists showed with a fourth massacre what they thought of Peres in every sense of the word, the contempt they had for him and the new self-doubting Israel he has helped create.

The terrorists also showed what they thought of the usual drivel that came from Washington after the third massacre - that terrorism must not be allowed to "interfere" with the "peace process."

Whatever is going on, it is not a peace process. It is a unilateral Israeli withdrawal.

President Clinton and other Western leaders cheered on the Labor withdrawal policy. If the Israeli government thought it worthwhile to "give up territory that all Israeli leaders, including Labor's, always regarded as essential to its security - why, no other government was interested in staying its hand.

Now Peres will have to do more than ask for a sympathetic Security Council resolution.

Labor surrendered Israel's most potent weapon, not the world's condolences but its own demonstrated ability and determination to go into Gaza and the West Bank to destroy the safe houses where terrorists are trained, armed and dispatched to kill, and die.

Yasser Arafat knows the

addresses. Israel gave them to him. But despite all its boasting of Arafat, it could not give him the willpower or desire to act.

If he does not do so within a day or two, the massacres make it the duty of Israel to carry out the job. But whatever the Labor government does now to deal with public

addresses, Israel gave them to him. But despite all its boasting of Arafat, it could not give him the willpower or desire to act.

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Israel and the US must stop acting as apologists for Arafat

outrage and keep a chance of winning the May election against Likud, Peres and Clinton will have to make drastic changes in the strategy, tactics and political philosophy of how they deal with Arafat and his Palestine Liberation Organization, and Hamas.

They must stop covering up or minimizing his failures, broken promises and use of international funds for his own political purposes. They must tell him he cannot talk anti-terrorism one day, and mourn terrorists as martyrs the next, and that all his credit, political and financial, is used up.

If the Israeli government wants to provide him with more money, it should look elsewhere, maybe its own treasury.

To convince Arafat that Israel is getting realistic, Peres might remove from the negotiations Israeli bureaucrats, his own pro-

teges, who with his blessing drew up the Oslo agreements. Prime ministers naturally consider proteges more dispensable than prime ministers.

Those agreements were among the most unusual in diplomatic history. A country in possession of land important to its security

turned it over to the enemy in return for nothing except some vague promises of good conduct.

Even the Israeli negotiators did not take the promises seriously. But they talked themselves into believing that the intentions of Palestinians were not essential.

They thought that great infusions of money (American mostly) and trade would turn Palestinians, and the Syrian dictatorship, into consumer societies eager to turn in missiles and terrorist bombs for VCRs and Armani suits.

Funny, but the bureaucrats do not believe that about Iran, the country they say is the paymaster of the terrorists. Against Iran, they want foreign action. For Syria and the PLO, they want foreign aid.

Anything but urgent Israeli and American rethinking of their approach to Arafat, the PLO, Hamas and the entire anti-terrorism policy will perpetuate terrorism and end any hope at all for an Israeli-Palestinian settlement of any kind.

And then what? Neither Labor nor Likud will try to retake the

West Bank and Gaza. But terrorist attacks from them will continue for years, no matter what agreement may be eventually reached.

That is, unless Israel insists it retains the right to go into Palestinian-controlled territory to wipe out terrorists.

That's not a perfect solution. There is none. But it is the only way to dilute the terrorism that otherwise will lead to another war between Israelis and Arabs.

(Courtesy of The New York Times.)

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Jordan seizes warplane spare parts for Iraq

News agencies
AMMAN

JORDAN said yesterday it had seized spare parts for fighter planes bound for Iraq from Poland in violation of UN sanctions. Concealed as "agricultural equipment" the shipment, imported by a private company, was seized at Jordan's international airport, an official said.

"The authorities seized a banned shipment of spare parts and equipment for military aircraft, imported for Iraq from Poland via Queen Alia International Airport by al-Etman company, under the cover of agricultural equipment," he said.

He gave no value for the haul. Poland, responding to reports of the seizure denied it had authorized any sales of arms to Iraq.

Foreign Trade Ministry spokesman Zbigniew Ostrowski said in Warsaw the ministry had not issued any mandatory permits for exports of such parts to Iraq.

It was the third interception by Jordan of contraband goods destined for Iraq in the past three months, including large consignments of toxic chemicals and a machine for making missile parts.

The spokesman expressed anger over continued Iraqi attempts to use Jordan, which is fully implementing all UN resolutions and is exerting all efforts to help the Iraqi people, to bypass the results of the sanctions in the areas of food, medical supplies and other humanitarian needs.

The Pentagon yesterday said it is dispatching 34 Air Force

fighters and tanker aircraft to Jordan to fill an anticipated gap in American air power in the Middle East.

The 12 Air Force F-15s, 18 F-16s and four tankers will help enforce a "no fly" zone over southern Iraq - a mission normally done by carrier-based US Navy jets. But since there will be no carrier in the Gulf area from about mid-April to late June or early July, the Air Force fighters will be needed, Pentagon officials said.

The Pentagon deployed F-16s to Bahrain last fall during the most recent carrier gap in the Gulf. Those planes returned to

the United States when the USS Nimitz arrived in the Gulf in January; the Nimitz is due to leave next month and its replacement, the USS Carl Vinson, is not due there until June or July.

The officials, who discussed the plan on condition they not be identified, said that in addition to filling the gap in the gulf, the F-15 and F-16 fighters in Jordan are meant to demonstrate US support for the kingdom's peace efforts.

The announcement was linked to the arrival in Washington of King Hussein.

In their White House meeting yesterday, Hussein and President Clinton were expected to discuss the administration's proposed transfer of 16 US Air Force F-16s

to Jordan, a \$200 million deal that many in Congress strongly oppose. Those F-16s are separate from the 34 US aircraft doing temporary duty there.

Walter Stocumbe, the under-secretary of defense, told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the \$200 million transfer of F-16s would further demonstrate US backing for a peace like Jordan that have taken sides to further Middle East peace and stood against Saddam Hussein.

Stocumbe said Jordan has taken steps recently, including capturing parts for weapons of mass destruction and curtailing the flow of illegal goods to Iraq, that have "increased Iraq's incentives to exact retribution from Jordan."

Serb exodus goes on amid arson, intimidation

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Serbs loaded trucks with their belongings yesterday and moved out of the next suburb due to be handed to Moslem-Croat rule, smoke drifting overhead as some trucked what little they left behind.

International officials spoke of intimidation and arson in another area as Serbs forced all their ethnic kin to leave with them.

Thousands of Serbs have already left the western suburb of Ilidza, straddling the city's airport, where Moslem-Croat police are scheduled to move in day.

International police, unarmed observers monitoring the transfer, said only some 350 people planning to remain had registered with

the UN police.

A Serb teenager said her family spent an uncomfortable night when a flat in her building was torched.

"My neighbor has an anti-tank mine in the basement. At one point the fire was very close, very dangerous. How can they do that with people still living in the building?"

The last district to be transferred will be Grbavica, where federation police will take over on March 19.

With most basic services shut down and Serb authorities fleeing the suburbs, workers from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were delivering bread to Grbavica and trying to keep a hospital near Ilidza open.

International police have arrived too late and in too few numbers to reassure the Serbs, who were subjected to an intense media campaign from their hardline leadership encouraging them to leave, one diplomat said.

"We're very worried about the remaining people in Grbavica. Virtually every night there's a fire in a building," said Kris Janowski of the UNHCR.

"There are a lot of old people in isolated homes in apartment blocks, often barricaded in. Some have had visits from thugs who told them they should leave or be smoked out, or beaten up."

"The atmosphere is getting more and more tense."

Bank bomb claims Bahrain's first terrorist fatality

MANAMA (AP) - A man killed in this year's first fatal bomb blast is a suspected terrorist who perished when explosives he was carrying blew up prematurely, a government official said yesterday.

Two people wounded in the overnight blast were suspected accomplices, said the official.

The overnight explosion went off as the trio tried to rig a cash machine outside a bank in Isa Town, a residential suburb just south of Manama, he said.

The official would give no other information on the victims, believed to be Shiite dissidents.

He said the wounded were under guard at a hospital. One of them was in critical condition.

The Interior Ministry reported the blast in a statement earlier yesterday but gave no details.

The explosion came hours after opposition groups called for two days of "intensified" protests yesterday and today against the government.

A statement issued by the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain yesterday morning denounced a recent government sweep which netted hundreds of suspects as "a reign of terror."

Clinton defends bill to impose sanctions on Cuba

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton dismissed world criticism Wednesday of sanctions legislation aimed at Cuba, repeating his intention to sign it, while Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole called for US prosecution of Cubans responsible for shooting down two US small planes.

Asked about objections raised by US allies against the tough measure that passed Congress Tuesday, Clinton said, "I believe that the bill as now written permits compliance with international law and that is why I said that I would support and sign it."

Clinton, at a brief appearance for photos during a White House meeting with Jordan's King Hussein, did not respond to a question about whether the bill violates the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement.

US allies, including fellow NAFTA members Mexico and Canada, wasted little time in attacking the tough new Cuba sanctions bill that awaits Clinton's signature.

The president, who originally opposed the Cuba Liberty Act, has backed it since Cuba shot down the two planes piloted by Cuban exiles off the Cuban coast last month. The bill scored an easy 356-66 victory in the House of Representatives Wednesday, a day after sailing through the Senate, 74-22.

Dole, campaigning for president in Miami's Little Havana section, said yesterday that Clinton should order the Justice Department to seek indictments against anyone in the Cuban government responsible for the attack on the planes and put them on trial in the United States.

Cuba defended its shutdown of the civilian aircraft as a patriotic action, telling the General Assembly that the US-based exile group flying the planes planned raids against the Communist state.

Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina told the 185-member General Assembly that the Miami-based Brothers to the Rescue made plans to dynamite power lines in Havana, sabotage the Cienfuegos oil refinery and carry out attacks on Cuban leaders.

WORLD BRIEFS

'Diana demands £30m. divorce settlement'
LONDON (AP) - Princess Diana is demanding a £30 million (NIS 136.8 million) divorce settlement, twice the amount Buckingham Palace was planning to offer her, the Sun reported yesterday.

The daily said the princess rejected an offer for a one-time, clean-break payment of £15 million (NIS 68.4 million), telling friends: "The price of a deal with me is a lot higher." The Sun did not identify the friends.

Diana already gets £900,000 (NIS 4 million) a year as part of a separation deal negotiated more than three years ago.

Lawyer F. Lee Bailey jailed
TALLAHASSEE (AP) - F. Lee Bailey couldn't keep his most important client out of prison.

Himself.

The famed lawyer who helped free O.J. Simpson was hauled away in handcuffs and leg irons to begin serving a six-month sentence for failing to produce \$25 million in stock from a drug dealer-client.

The grim-faced former Marine bolted from a car in front of the federal courthouse yesterday.

Bailey clenched his jaw, spread his arms and bowled over a photographer, two TV cameramen and two reporters as he pushed his way through the crowd to the courthouse. He ignored questions.

Scientists clone sheep en masse
NEW YORK (AP) - In a feat never before accomplished in mammals, scientists have found a way to turn a laboratory dish full of cells into hundreds of genetically identical sheep.

Scottish scientists took cells from an embryo, grew thousands of copies in the lab and used them to produce sheep from ewes.

Experts said if the technique can be perfected, it will be a major gain in the ability to make genetic changes in livestock for research and to quickly produce animals that give more or better milk or meat, resist diseases or display other desirable traits.

Ramat Gan Bowling Club
We extend our deepest sympathy to the family on the passing of our dear
ESSIE NARUNSKY
A devoted and esteemed member of our club

Our beloved sister-in-law and aunt
ESSIE NARUNSKY
is no more.
Sadly missed by
Reuben and Yvonne Narunsky, children and grandchildren.
Isidore and Marian Narunsky (South Africa), children and grandchildren.

We are devastated
Our beloved mother, grandmother and sister
ESSIE NARUNSKY
is no more.
We will always miss her.
Sonja and Brian Laden David and Dina Narunsky
Guy, Mark and Ariel Daniel, Lian and Ariel
Minnie Davimes and Joonie and Issy Marcus
Funeral: Friday, March 8, 1996, 2:30 p.m.,
Kfar Shmaryahu Cemetery

We mourn the tragic loss of our beloved
ESSIE NARUNSKY
"Our beacon of light in the darkness"
You will always be remembered.
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FOR THE BLIND.
Deepest condolences to the family.

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ESSIE NARUNSKY
is no more
Sincere condolences to the family
We will always remember her
Honé, Rose Rosenberg and family

THE EVENT COMMITTEE and THE JERUSALEM POST
offer their deepest sympathies to the Bernstein and Belkin families on the tragic deaths of
SYLVIA BERNSTEIN ז"ל
and
GAIL BELKIN ז"ל
המקום ירחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

The President, Chairman and members of ESRA are devastated at the tragic deaths of our loved and valued Hod Hasharon Volunteer
SYLVIA BERNSTEIN
and her daughter
GAIL BELKIN
who lost their lives in the Tel Aviv terrorist attack.
We mourn with the Bernstein, Butchins, Belkin and Geshen families.

נילוס מצבה
The unveiling of the tombstone for our beloved
GOLDA (GENIA) EHRENBERG ז"ל
and the commemoration of the first Yahrzeit of our beloved
CHAIM EHRENBERG ז"ל
will take place on Sunday, March 10, 1996 (19 Adar 5756) at 3 p.m. at Har Tamir (first main entrance), Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.
Zvi and Sandy Ehrenberg and Family

The unveiling of the tombstone for my beloved wife
IRENE BALINT י"ה
will take place on Wednesday, March 13, at 4:00 p.m. at the "Shomrei Shabbat" Cemetery in Zichron Meir, Bnei Brak.
George Ballint

Our beloved mother, grandmother and sister
MIRIAM (Mickie) FISHER
has left us forever.
The funeral will take place today, Friday, March 8, 1996 at the Herzliya Cemetery at 10:30 a.m.
The Family

Our deepest sympathy to Fritz Feist on the passing of his beloved wife
HILDE
Eva, Micki and Dafna, Naomi and Kobi, and Danny

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The Faculty of Humanities
The Porter Institute
The Department of Poetics and Comparative Literature
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Mother
Your Friends at Work

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Ephraim Fuchs
Master of the Order
Grand Master

PARENTS OF NORTH AMERICAN ISRAELIS (PNAI) join with our children in overwhelming grief for the victims of the terror attacks. We pray for the speedy, complete recovery of the injured and for a safe, secure future for all of Israel.

Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael Jewish National Fund

The World Family of JNF mourns the loss of innocent lives and extends its condolences to the families of the victims of these horrid acts of terrorism.

We pray for the speedy recovery of all the injured.

Moshe Rivlin
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Friday, March 8, 1996

SPY V

IDF intelligence and the GSS are blaming each other for failures to stop Hamas rockets

Steve Rodan

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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, March 8, 1996

Spy vs. spy: Intelligence community in crisis

IDF intelligence and the GSS are blaming each other for failures to stop Hamas, reports Steve Rodan

NEARLY two weeks ago, hours before the Sunday morning rush of tens of thousands of Palestinian laborers to their jobs in Israel, the General Security Services received a tip from what it regarded as a reliable source: A woman terrorist would be leaving Gaza carrying a huge explosive and blowing herself up in a bus full of Israelis.

GSS chief Ami Ayalon relayed the information to Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres via his military secretary, Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom. Ayalon recommended that the closure of the territories, lifted the previous day, be reimposed.

Peres asked Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Sbahak to look into the tip. The military chief took the information for assessment by the IDF intelligence's research division. Its conclusion was that the GSS alert was too vague to warrant a closure. Sbahak said he opposed reinstating the closure; Peres agreed.

Hours later, Palestinians loaded with explosives blew themselves up in Jerusalem and Ashkelon, killing 25 people. GSS officials were fuming over the IDF veto of the closure. IDF commanders said the GSS information proved wrong.

It was the first salvo of a turf war over intelligence gathering and assessment in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. The argument reflected a new reality in Israel's intelligence community: The GSS has lost much of its ability to monitor events in the territories and needs help fast.

"This period is creating enmity between organizations," says Brig.-Gen. (res.) Ephraim Lapid, a former IDF spokesman who served for years in IDF intelligence.

The result is that IDF intelligence is playing a larger role in the territories than the GSS, which only two years ago claimed them as its sole domain. About eight months ago, the IDF and GSS agreed that military intelligence would serve a support role in Judea, Samaria and Gaza - with overall responsibility for counterterrorism and intelligence gathering remaining with the domestic security service. It would be the reverse of the relationship in south Lebanon, where the GSS is subordinate to the intelligence branch.

TODAY, IDF intelligence wants a role that equals that of the GSS. "We did agree informally that the GSS would be the lead organization, but things have changed since then," a senior IDF source says. "We believe that we have lots to contribute."

Senior security sources say the GSS is under great pressure these days to combat the wave of terror. Formally, they say, Peres has given Ayalon, appointed head of a new command on counterterrorism, the authority to order operations anywhere in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

But Ayalon must convince Peres that the GSS has information on the exact whereabouts of terrorist leaders. A large-scale raid - in which the GSS, backed by IDF units, would search for hours for suspects in Palestinian cities and might end up confronting PA security forces - has been ruled out.



"If we go through Area A [territories fully controlled by the PA], then Arafat is finished," a senior IDF officer says. "There would be an intifada against him and us, but this time with tens of thousands of armed fighters."

The tension between the IDF and GSS first arose during the search for Yibye Ayyash, the Izzadin Kassam bomb maker responsible for terrorist attacks

Gaza on January 5 by a bomb planted in a cellular phone. The operation has been credited to the GSS.

SENIOR IDF officers say the GSS has not sufficiently adapted to the situation of Palestinian semi-sovereignty in the territories. The organization didn't change its basic methods of intelligence-gathering and recruiting.

limit the activities of the Palestinian Preventive Security Apparatus, headed by Col. Jibril Rajoub.

Second, GSS officials believed that the Palestinians' achievements would create a strong lobby for cooperation with Israel. Some of the officials envisioned that enmity toward the Islamic opposition would prompt even young idealistic Palestinians to offer their services to the GSS and foil terrorist plans to wreck the peace process.

SO FAR, none of these visions has materialized. Senior security sources say Rajoub and other PA officials have made their first priority the capture of Palestinian collaborators. Some of them have been arrested and punished. Others have been recruited as double agents. They feed the PA the names of other collaborators and try to recruit them. They also relay GSS methods and messages they receive from Israeli intelligence.

Riyad Faiz Jabber and Haled Abd al-Latif Freij are two examples of how the PA has turned Israeli collaborators against the GSS. Jabber and Freij are former collaborators from Tulkarim who were given Israeli identity cards and resettled in the Nctanya area.

Several months ago, according to an indictment submitted in Tel Aviv District Court, Freij and Jabber met with Palestinian security officials and offered to become double agents. The two suspects allegedly offered to recruit for the PA Palestinians they named as suspected collaborators and whose new addresses in Israel they supplied.

GSS sources counter that the IDF has not responded to the escalation in terrorism. Their main criticism is directed against Shabahak, saying he did not press

The sources dismiss the current IDF offensive against Hamas. They say the arrests of hundreds of suspected activists in Area B, the region under Israeli military and Palestinian civilian control, as well as the sealing of homes might appear impressive on television, but the operations have no effect on the leaders and planners of Islamic terrorism.

With the exception of several

IDF intelligence is playing a larger role in the territories than the GSS, which had claimed them as its sole domain

that killed 67 Israelis. Military officers, particularly the head of IDF Central Command, were angered that the GSS could provide few leads on the whereabouts of Ayyash despite the massive support in army manpower.

"There is a new situation where we have been missing real-time intelligence," a senior intelligence source says. "If anything, this requires new thinking."

Much of the anger has been directed at the GSS's new Jerusalem regional chief, appointed in the wake of resignations of more than a dozen senior GSS officials, who is regarded as too inexperienced to fight the wave of Islamic terrorism. In the end, Ayyash was assassinated in

"They're still fighting terrorism the same way they did in the 1950s," says Brig.-Gen. (res.) David Agmon, who served as the IDF adviser on the Palestinian uprising until 1992. "It is not built to go inside enemy territory."

Indeed, senior security sources say that many in the GSS actually hoped their job would be easier with the territories under Palestinian self-rule. They, particularly former GSS chiefs Ya'acov Perry and Karmi Gillon, envisioned several developments.

One would have been close cooperation in security and intelligence-gathering with the Palestinian Authority. For nearly two years, the GSS opposed the demands of the IDF and police to

are foiled," a security source says. "The problem is the successes pale against the failure to stop suicide bombings."

GSS sources say they can't imagine a situation in which equal responsibility for intelligence in the territories would be given to the IDF. They point out that military intelligence methods differ widely from those of the GSS.

IDF intelligence's chief role is to focus on troop movements or anything that would prompt an alert about a military attack on Israel. The GSS is a law-enforcement agency focusing on counterintelligence as well as terrorist threats from the territories and within Israel.

In the middle of the dispute is Peres. Senior security sources say that unlike the late Yitzhak Rabin, the new prime minister does not yet have the authority to define responsibilities. They say Peres has correct but cool relations with the chief of the Mossad, whose name is still banned from publication.

As foreign minister, the sources say, Peres succeeded in reducing the Mossad's authority in several Arab and Islamic countries, including Jordan. Today, the Foreign Ministry is responsible for intelligence priorities there.

"Peres does not have a chemistry with the intelligence community," a security source says.

Peres's relations with IDF intelligence are said to be not much better. This is highlighted by Peres's attitude toward Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, the head of IDF military intelligence's assessment division, regarded as the most influential member of the corps.

Several weeks ago, in front of the full cabinet, Amidror disputed Peres's assertion that hotels are more strategic for Israel than military outposts. Amidror's boss, Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, is new in his position as head of military intelligence and does not have previous experience in the field.

INTELLIGENCE SOURCES say Peres's decision last month to relay the GSS alert on terrorism for IDF assessment was an indication of his inexperience.

"It was a decision made on the run," a senior intelligence source says. Security sources say they believe that Peres will not change the GSS's dominant role in the territories. His appointment of Ayalon as head of the counterterrorism command surprised some in the IDF who expected that the job would go to Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai.

But the IDF will become more influential in monitoring the territories. Quietly, IDF intelligence officers say they have changed their view of Palestinian terrorism. For years, they regarded it as having no effect on the military balance with the Arabs despite the toll exacted from Israeli civilians.

Over the past few months they have started viewing Palestinian terrorism as a strategic threat to Israel and an option preserved by Arafat to press for more concessions. Their concern is that Islamic opponents of the peace process will prompt Israel into military action in the PA areas. The result might be an armed conflict with up to 50,000 armed fighters, most of them serving in the Palestinian police, a battle into which Arab countries might be drawn.

"Our assessment is that there will not be war with the Arabs," a senior intelligence source says. "But the wars of 1956 and even 1967 were caused by mistakes [made by the Arabs] we didn't forecast."

Peres's decision to relay the GSS alert for IDF assessment was an indication of his inexperience

for the delay of the IDF withdrawal from the Palestinian cities in Judea and Samaria last year despite being warned that some had large concentrations of Islamic terrorists.

GSS sources pointed to Ramallah, which they say has become the frontline of Hamas terrorism. Suicide bombings, including three of the last four, and other kinds of attacks are planned and launched from Ramallah, a five-minute drive from Jerusalem.

low-level operatives, most Hamas terrorist leaders are still enjoying their freedom in the PA territories.

"It's simply a good show being given by IDF officers, especially [OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan] Biran," one source says.

DESPITE THE decline in intelligence gathering, senior security officials insist that the GSS remains effective against terrorists. "I would estimate that every week at least two terrorist attacks

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'There are no innocents in the bombings'

Students at Hebron's Islamic College share their perspective on suicide bombings, Peres and peace with Steve Rodan

IT'S a nondescript building near the north end of Hebron. The students file in. Most, but far from all, wear beards. The subjects taught cover the standard Arab post-high-school curriculum — languages, history, chemistry. Religious subjects are mandatory.

This is the Islamic College of Hebron, regarded as a hotbed of religious extremism, one of several recruitment centers for Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

There are also a group of students in the college, shut down by IDF order on Wednesday, who have been holding a dialogue with their Israeli counterparts, and some of them expressed their condolences over the recent wave of terrorist bombings.

Inside the Islamic College, about a dozen men, regarded as hard-liners, ponder questions posed by an Israeli journalist. No, the students will not speak to him directly, but they agree to respond to another student who has a list of questions presented by the journalist.

"We have dealt with many Israelis," says one of the students. "Not all of them are bad people, but we cannot meet any Israeli, even if he is a journalist. We worked in building and farming in Israel and we know that the Israelis are better than Arabs. But

in the final analysis, this is a Jew who occupied our land and who has taken the place of our refugees."

The students take great pains to stress that they speak with one voice.

There is no real debate over the key questions regarding their attitude toward Islam, Israel, Jews or Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat.

They refuse to give their names, and they emphasize that they will not talk about Hamas. They will certainly not admit to membership. They ignore questions about women or marriage.

Some of the students major in the sciences. Others focus on English.

They say they regard themselves as different from what they term their spoiled counterparts attending the richer and more prominent universities in the territories, such as Bir Zeit University near Ramallah.

"We are all devout Moslems, and being a Moslem means believing in God, all the holy books, angels and prophets and that Mohammed is the last prophet," says one student, who appears to be the spokesman for the group. "Being a Moslem also means to wish other Moslems well and that you should not harm



Israeli soldiers guard the entrance of a closed Islamic University in 1988, following clashes between Moslems and Jews. (Andre Brummann/AFP)

Arafat deals with Jews all the time. Is he a proper Moslem? The students reflect on the question for a while. Then, the apparent spokesman says, "We cannot judge whether he is a proper Moslem, because we are not in a position to judge. We do not accept Jewish authority in Hebron or Jews being in the center of Hebron. We do not accept Jews praying in the Ibrahim Mosque [Cave of the Patriarchs]."

Finally, to the heart of the discussion. How do these students respond to the wave of suicide bombings around Israel? There are no nuances in their answers. Islam, they say, does not allow them to kill the innocent.

But none of the victims in the Islamic bombings in Jerusalem, Ashkelon, Tel Aviv or anywhere else were innocent, they say. Revenge is permitted in Islam, whether against soldiers or bus passengers or youngsters in Purim costume who stroll with their parents around Dizengoff Center.

"The accidents [sic] are vengeful operations for the assassination of Yihye Ayyash," one student says as the others nod. "The other operations are in revenge for the Hebron massacre or other Israeli attacks against Palestinians. So Hamas operations come after previous attacks of the Israeli government."

The students refuse to say whether they support the bombings. "We could say that those who always pay the heaviest price are the Israeli people, civilians, not the government," says the spokesman. "We are sorry to say that."

Another student continues, citing a list of events that go back to the 1948 War of Independence.

"As Hamas kills Israelis, we think [of the fact] that Israeli soldiers, under the orders of the highest authorities, applied the policy of breaking the bones of children. They hurried people alive. They committed massacres, beginning from Deir Yassin, Sabra and Shatilla to Hebron, as well as the assassination of Islamic leaders Ayyash and [Islamic Jihad chief] Fathi Shkaki.

"So, it is time for the Israeli people to change the policy of their government. Live and let live."

Pause. The students will respond to one last question. What is their vision of the Middle

In glum Gaza, Palestinians complain bombings also hurt them

THE 20 Palestinian men gathered around a bonfire fell silent when asked if anyone supported the wave of suicide bombings that has struck Israel in the past week.

Abu Tewfik broke the silence. "I support a loaf of bread, that's all," he said.

The men were upset at the closure, barring tens of thousands of workers from jobs.

"I didn't put the bomb, it's not my fault," said Abu Tewfik, adding he was being "robbed of my livelihood."

"It's mass punishment," agreed Abu Mohammed.

"We are prisoners in one big jail," continued Abu Tewfik.

"We don't want bombings. Who wants to kill?" concluded Abu Mohammed.

All the men interviewed asked their full names not be used — apparently for fear of retribution by Hamas, or Israel.

The mood was glum and apprehensive throughout Gaza, where PLO leader Yasser Arafat — under intense pressure from Israel — launched a crackdown on Islamic militants.

"I'm worried about my husband," said Intissar Bahar, wife of senior Hamas leader Ahmed Bahar, believed to have gone underground with many of his colleagues.

"They arrest anyone who is a Moslem or who prays these days," said Fatima Bahar, the Hamas leader's aunt.

"When I see scenes from the bombings on television, believe me, I cry," said Intissar. "Who wants to see people reduced to that, whether they are Arabs or Jews?"

She blamed the bombings on a lack of genuine peace between Israel and Palestinians.

Her 16-year-old daughter Maryam, however, said she enjoyed watching scenes of carnage on TV. "They are our enemies. Hamas asked Israel to release our prisoners, but it did not."

"May God bring peace between us and the Israelis," sighed Fatima, 65. "Nothing is wrong with having peace with Israel — when they give us our rights. We kill them, they kill us. How long is this going to go on?"

Taxi driver Farid Abdulrahman said the bombings were not going to destroy Israel, but only hurt the Palestinians.

"This is terrorism. There's peace now, so enough with the violence. If anyone has any demands from Israel, let the Palestinian Authority handle it," said Abdulrahman.

Asked what he thought of Hamas, he said: "They're good — if only they just concentrated on religion."

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anyone. We are religious students."

Hamas leaders see these and other Palestinian students as the backbone of what they predict will be the Islamic revolution in the region. Israeli intelligence officials say hundreds of Palestinian youngsters are candidates for suicide bombings, dozens of them in the Hebron region alone.

The Islamic College has 1,700 students, and the student council — most of whose members are now in detention, is dominated by an Islamic bloc composed of Hamas and Jihad.

"We are living in an Islamic revival built around our youth," says Imam Hamed Bitawi, the

chief preacher at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The college students then deal with questions of politics.

They are cautious. Privately, one of them says they fear that any damaging details will be reported to the General Security Service or the Palestinian Authority, which unofficially operates in Hebron.

"We welcome the Palestinian Authority in Hebron, because it will bring us the tranquility that we dreamed of," says one student. "After all, they are our brothers who share with us this land."

You regard yourselves as proper Moslems who refuse to deal with Jews, the students are asked,

Broken agreements?

As serious cracks emerge in the Oslo agreements, both sides blame each other, reports Michael Widlanski

ISRAELI ministers and security officials have pointed to the wave of Palestinian terror attacks as evidence that Yasser Arafat has broken his agreements with Israel to stop terror emanating from the territory under his control.

The Palestinian view, on the other hand, is that it is Israel, not the Palestinian National Authority, that has continuously violated the many agreements signed between the parties, dating from the Declaration of Principles and its side letters of September 1993 through the various implementation pacts.

"The two operations were undertaken in Jerusalem and Ashkelon because of the violation of the cease-fire undertaken between Israel and Hamas which Hamas kept," declared Abbas Zaki, a leading PLO official in an interview with the Jerusalem daily Al-Quds.

"It was also as a reaction to Israel's contempt at the PNA and the attack on the engineer Yihye Ayyash," said Zaki, a leader of Fatah's Force 17, a group that is supposed to help police Hamas.

For his part, Arafat in his speeches and through the Voice of Palestine radio and PLO television has trumpeted Israeli "viola-

tions" of the various agreements. But his contentions are far-fetched according to various monitoring groups.

"Right now Israel, with one or two minor exceptions, is keeping the whole agreement," declared Dan Polisar, director of Peace Watch, a non-partisan monitoring group which has overseen Israeli and Palestinian compliance with the accords. "Israel did the whole thing, handing over all the areas of the West Bank it was supposed to, ahead of schedule," said Polisar.

"The only thing Israel hasn't done is that there are four women prisoners guilty of murder who haven't been released," said Polisar. "Israel's killing of Yihye Ayyash in Palestinian territory — if they killed him — was a violation of the agreement," he said. "Israel did not have the right to send its people into autonomous territory except in cases of hot pursuit."

This means that Israel, unless it chooses to argue that the various

agreements are no longer binding, will have some difficulty mounting operations legally in Territory A which is completely under Palestinian Authority control. Many in Israel, however, are probably not too worried about legal niceties.

"I call on the people for restraint because we are in a war, and I call on the government to suspend all talks and to think and deliberate because it cannot go on like this," declared President Ezer Weizman.

But these kinds of comments from the president — reflecting an impatience with broken agreements and terror — are nothing new.

As Weizman himself said this week, he had said much the same thing more than a year ago. For some time Weizman has even been refusing to accept calls from Arafat because he did not believe the PLO chairman was doing all he could to stop terror.

What is even more telling is that one year ago, former prime

minister Yitzhak Rabin said much the same thing in the wake of the dramatic terror attack at Beit Lid junction in which 21 people were killed on January 22, 1995.

"We want to continue with the Oslo accords, but unless the Palestinians manage to overcome the problem of terror, the continuation of negotiations is in doubt," Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on February 14, 1995.

At the time Rabin told committee members that 59 Israelis had been killed in suicide terror attacks over two years, "including 38 of the 69 terror victims last year and 21 of the 24 terror victims this year."

So, if the suicides, the terror and the statistics — which were well known to the late prime minister — are not new, why is the government now pointing a finger at Arafat as if he has suddenly become a collaborator with Hamas.

Part of the answer is that Prime Minister Peres believed Arafat was making serious efforts to control Hamas, and was willing to overlook what he saw as rhetorical lapses by the Palestinian leader.

Peace Watch director Polisar believes that Peres, along with ex-Shin Bet director Karmi Gillon, was watching Arafat's attempts to bring Hamas into the political process. "When Arafat was negotiating with Hamas he succeeded in bringing terror way down," said Polisar.

"But the problem with this strategy is that your success is dependent solely on the will of Hamas because their entire infrastructure for terror has not only remained intact but actually improved under Arafat."

Outside observers following the PLO-Israeli negotiations may see

many ambiguities and contradictory clauses.

Polisar says that Israel, especially in its non-compliance with the timetable, can be seen to have violated the agreement. And the Palestinians regularly pronounced this to be a provocation to terror.

"If the Israelis really want to help security, they should speed up their withdrawal from Palestinian lands and from Jerusalem and the implementation of the final-status talks," declared Youssef Himawi, a Voice of Palestine commentator, the day after the Dizengoff Center blast.

Palestinian radio has claimed that the Israeli right had a part in the recent attacks and knew of them in advance. It has also pleaded with Hamas not to continue attacks which will lead to the Israeli right scoring an election victory.

Al-Quds, whose content is heavily influenced by PLO directives, editorialized: "How can Israel expect the peace process to continue when Palestinians are suffering?" a plaintive reminder that closure of the territories is also seen as a provocation.

Technically, at least, Polisar says, the Palestinians sometimes have a point. According to Polisar, "Israel delayed the negotiations on Palestinian elections and handing over territory which was a serious violation of the timetable of the agreement."

"That's a legal issue, and then you have to say that the agreement or parts of it were no longer binding because of Palestinian non-compliance. Instead, Israel argued that the PLO was keeping the agreement but that Israel was allowed to delay its implementation."

This defense of Arafat was most evident less than a month ago when Gillon told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Arafat was sincerely and actively trying to thwart terror.

His words were contradicted several times at committee hearings by Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, director of Israeli military intelligence, as well as by the detailed reports of Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, director of IDF's intelligence acquisition service.

Less than two weeks later, Gillon told Israel Television that Arafat was not doing enough to stop terror. "In the reality of the situation today, cooperation [with the PLO] is necessary," said Gillon, adding, "the real test is whether he arrests all those wanted men whose names are well known to him."

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Defiant passengers wage war by riding the #18

DAVID ISAACSON

It's 6:30 on the morning after the second suicide bomb attack to hit Jerusalem's 18 bus line in successive weeks. Pinhas, a tall, haredi figure, is waiting at the bus stop at the north end of Rehov Emek Refaim. He is flanked by two soldiers. But if he feels safe, it is not due to the IDF's watchful presence.

"Why am I not scared? Because I believe [in God] the 43-year-old says calmly.

The bus pulls up and Matok, the driver, exchanges cheerful greetings with the soldiers.

As he drives off, Matok sounds less afraid than upset. "It hurts me, what's happening," the 53-year-old father of three says, more in reference to the wave of suicide bombings that have plagued the country in the past few years than to the two recent attacks on his route.

"There is no security in this state."

There are a handful of passengers — only slightly fewer than is usual at this time — and all are sitting alone. The mood is somber and introspective. The driver's radio is switched off. Nobody is reading, few look pointedly through the window, at least until the bus reaches the Shlomzion Hamalka junction — site of the previous day's atrocity. But the atmosphere on the bus is quietly defiant.

A journalist who asks not to be named typifies the passengers' refusal to be cowed. "I'm not scared," she says in a French accent, "because it's my country and I want to live in freedom. If we were scared, [the terrorists] would win."

This steadfastness is shared by student Shmuel: "Yesterday evening I was afraid, and this morning I thought I would take a taxi. But I need to control my fear. I know that if I didn't take the bus today, I never would, and that is what [the terrorists] want. This way we are fighting."

But there are also those who lost loved ones the previous day, or the previous week. When Liat, a soldier of "eighteen-and-a-half," speaks, her eyes fill with tears. She has the delicate features and



A few glum faces and many empty seats fill this No. 18 bus.

(Brian Henner)

nervous smile of a child. Her voice is soft, and sad: "Yesterday the funeral of a friend broke my heart. And last week I had two friends on the bus [that was attacked]. I feel that my friends are disappearing before my eyes."

At the bus stop opposite the Central Bus Station, 22-year-old Nathalie is waiting for the 18 bus to take her to the garage where she works in Talpit. "I

was one bus late yesterday," she says, implying that, had she been on time, she would have been among the victims. "And I saw what happened to the poor people last week," she adds.

Nathalie advises passengers to be careful: "See who's getting on the bus and tell the driver if you see someone suspicious."

The driver of the 7 a.m. bus to the

Katamonim, 24-year-old Motti, is "very tense." While acknowledging that the protection of the soldiers at bus stops and the searches made by soldiers and policemen on the buses "will help," he says it is not a good long-term solution. "All the soldiers on the streets makes us seem like a city at war. It's like Vietnam, or a police state, like Cuba," he says.

Motti suggests that Hamas is deliberately

targeting the 18 bus, because its route — from Jerusalem's southern suburbs, through the city and back to Kiryat Hayovel in the southwest — is so extensive. "The terrorists are watching, looking for ways to cause the most damage," he says. "They know which routes are the busiest. But they won't break us. I will drive this bus line anytime — today, tomorrow or whenever."

Meanwhile, a couple of elderly men in kippot debate the political option. "If [Ariel] Sharon was prime minister and [Isomet leader Rafael] Rafal [Eitan] was defense minister, then we'd have a solution," says one.

"Give [Prime Minister Shimon] Peres a chance!" intercedes a younger passenger. "He can't do anything in a week. Don't you want the peace process to continue?"

ON A later bus, Motti's courage and resolution are echoed by fellow-driver Menahem. Steering through the narrow, winding part of Jaffa Road near Mahaneb Yehuda market, Menahem repeatedly quotes the title of the Yehoram Gaon song "Lo menatzhim ot" — I won't be beaten.

His voice is full of pride and commitment. "The people of Israel have strength," he says. "And we drivers will continue to drive our passengers, not just because it's our work but because we love them."

"My bus is my friend," says the 36-year-old, who has worked for Egged for 14 years. "And my passengers are like family. If they wanted it, I would drive them to Hebron, or even Lebanon."

For children, it's not so easy to put on a brave face.

Fear is evident in 12-year-old Yael's every glance and gesture. Standing by the exit door on a journey to a friend's house she says, "I look at everyone. And I stand here so that if I see someone suspicious I can quickly jump off the bus [at the next stop]."

As for her parents, "they said that if I have to take the bus, I must; there's always a danger somewhere."

The military presence at bus stops and on the buses does little to make Yael feel safe. "What can they do?" she asks forlornly.

In a society of huge sectarian divisions, 16-year-old yeshiva student Dani could be speaking for Israel as a whole when he says: "I trust in God, that he will save us. Yet still I'm afraid."

are the central ones, as demonstrated by the recent bombings and the No. 5 [bus attack] on Dizengoff Street [in 1994]."

NADAV YAGIL, 25, was driving his No. 6 bus into downtown Jerusalem when he recalled a folk tale about the Wise Men of Chelm.

"They built a bridge and forgot to put a guardrail on it. People just fell off and they got hurt or died," says the driver, a crocheted kippa on his closely shorn black hair. "So they said, 'Nu, what should we do?' They had a meeting for several hours and what did they decide? They would build a hospital beneath the bridge and everyone who got hurt would go straight there and get first aid right away."

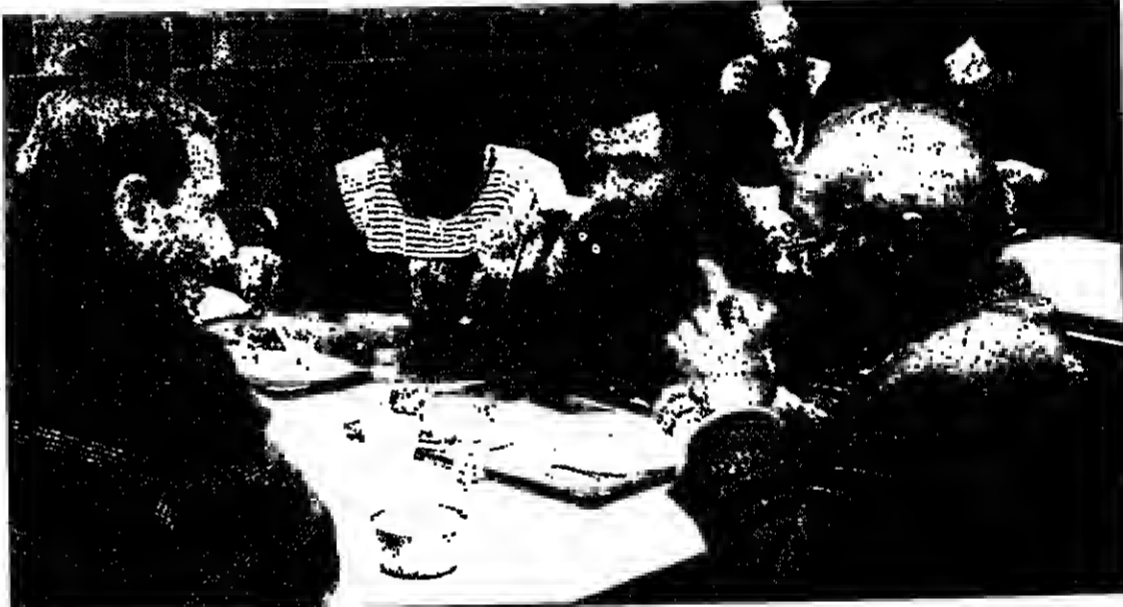
"That's what's happening in this country," Yagil continued. "Instead of figuring out a solution, they brought in all the army, and now Jerusalem looks like an army base. How long can they do this with the soldiers? A week, two weeks, a month? It doesn't matter anyway. The minute a bomber gets to Jerusalem, the whole matter is finished. There it begins and there it ends."

Yagil became a bus driver two years ago after finishing his tour of army duty as a medic. He has two brothers who are bus drivers, one of whom drives the No. 18 line.

"I'm angry right now, and you can never get used to this situation, really," Yagil says. "On my line, it's always crowded. There are lots of religious people who ride the line, and they don't take cabs. They take this bus at all hours."

"I'm a regular guy, a lifelong resident of Jerusalem. My family came here from Yemen; we've been here two generations. We want peace. I want to get up in the morning and go to my job and know that my brothers are going to their buses, and we're all safe."

Bus drivers: Our nerves are raw



Egged's finest chew the fat in the driver's dining room.

(Brian Henner)

In the past few years, Egged has established a security team that checks buses and bus stops daily. "However, suicide bombers are a source of terror that are difficult to handle and intercept," says Ashkenazi, who is also a bus driver.

EACH DRIVER reacts differently after a colleague's bus has been attacked, and Egged provides individualized emotional help. The cooperative has a physician and a psychologist on call in the Jerusalem area who work closely with drivers. Ashkenazi explains that some drivers want to get right back on the road after news of an attack, while others need time to adjust.

JESSICA STEINBERG

"After each incident, we are naturally more tense," he says, "but so is the public. One lady started yelling at me the other day about an empty plastic bag in the aisle. Our nerves are raw."

Even though ridership declines immediately after an attack, most regular passengers return to the bus after a short reprieve.

Avi Levy, the dispatcher at the depot, says that on the No. 18 route in Gonenim, also known as the Katamonim, where 55 percent of the residents use buses, private transportation isn't an option. "I ride the bus every day," says Levy, a 21-year veteran of Egged. "These

Losing, then winning, the war against fear

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

JUST hours after the bus bombing on Sunday, I had to go to the office to do all things, work on the planned Jerusalem Post Purim pages, which I had been struggling to organize the past week despite the previous Sunday's tragedy.

As I left the house, my wife offered to drive me, but I refused, saying I'd take a taxi.

Walking to the bus stop, I was determined to take that taxi, despite feeling somehow like I had surrendered something that was mine — my peace of mind and confidence in a mode of transportation that until two weeks ago I never thought twice about.

No taxis stopped, however, and when the familiar red-and-white bus pulled up, I summoned up some courage and got on, despite feeling very uncomfortable. I looked carefully at all the passengers, eyeing them much more suspiciously than ever before.

I found it impossible to fall back into the habit of enjoying quiet reading time, and when the bus slowed to a crawl, I felt the tension building.

When would this damn bus start moving again? The radio played reports from the scene of the explosion, making me even more uncomfortable. I decided I'd skip the ride through town; I'd get off early — I had to get off early. It was irrational, but at Bar-Ilan Street, I got off, and felt much better.

But no cabs stopped on Bar-Ilan, either, and the rain was too heavy to walk up the hill to the office. I was going to have to take another bus. Resigned to that fact, I waited for the No. 48 and got on, fully expecting to take it to the stop just a block from the office.

But as the reports of other possible bombs filtered over the radio, I just couldn't do it. Stuck again in a traffic jam, I needed to get off, and given the first chance, despite the longer walk, I got out, feeling tremendously relieved, but also angry at myself and not a little embarrassed.

I had let them get to me. Going home, the same feeling prevailed, but I felt I owed it to my family to take the greatest precautions, and ended up walking back down Bar-Ilan rather than riding the No. 36 bus through town.

The next day I was determined to get on the bus completely in accordance with past routine. I would put Sunday's tragedy completely out of my mind. I would play a psychological game with myself and read my newspaper down to the stock tables, if necessary, just to keep my mind off things.

All this worked, up to a point, until I caught myself wondering to what fate the bus might be taking me as it pulled its way up Yehzekel Street. I felt powerless, but determined to tough it out. I made it all the way through town, although I found it impossible not to stare at the fat man with the large bag who got on midway through the trip. The security guard who boarded eased my fear, although he never asked me to open my backpack.

I passed the scene of the previous week's bombing and watched a young soldier say psalms for the dead. I was going to make it.

Alighting at the central bus station minutes later, I felt as though I'd won a round in my personal war with Hamas. I had, at least this time, won a battle against fear.

At the squat Egged depot building on Rehov Pait in Jerusalem's Gonenim neighborhood, drivers are talking about the suicide bombings on their colleagues' buses. It's not the first time they've dealt with these fears, and for most, the attitude is life must go on.

It's Monday afternoon, 36 hours after the second bus bombing, and drivers are standing around in the sunny parking area, chatting with one another and waiting to pull their trademark red-and-white buses out of the gravel lot. Among them is Nachon Shimshon, from Ma'aleh Adumim, a quiet man with graying curly hair and red-rimmed eyes. He's been driving the No. 22 bus for 22 years and hopes to be a driver for a long time to come.

"If we show we're scared, we give Hamas the satisfaction," Shimshon says. "We also don't have a choice, everyone has to go to work. The passengers are suspicious, there's no doubt about it. They don't want to go on the bus."

He says the government's decision to place soldiers at the bus stops could work in the first few days, but questions its effectiveness once a suicide bomber is waiting at a stop; bombers must be stopped before they get that far.

Avi Kefetz agrees with Shimshon. After 27 years driving the No. 18 bus, the ponytailed Kefetz says he is hoping Peres's plan works. "Yesterday I had an almost empty bus. Passengers were scared. But I do believe that the situation will return to normal, and people will be traveling on the buses again."

The bus depot is a comfortable if spartan building for the drivers who pass through during the day. They can watch television, read newspapers or play a quick game of table tennis if the urge hits them. These days, however, most sit quietly, waiting for their next run, leather satchels, holding change dispensers and tickets, by their side.

"It would be wrong and misleading to say that it's business as usual," Egged public relations manager Uri Ashkenazi says. "However, we recognize that we have a service to provide and even during these difficult days, we are determined to do our job."

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Discussant: Prof. Jacob Kop Director, The Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel

Police concerned Russian 'mafia' infiltrating government

At the second-floor offices of the police's Serious Crimes Division in Petah Tikva, Dep.-Cmdr. Avi Davidovitch has begun finalizing a chart on the country's Russian mafia. The chart has far-reaching implications for the nation's political and state apparatus.

Davidovitch, the head of the division's new International Crime Unit, is painstakingly mapping out the major players in the Russian mafia's operations here, and their bosses in several of the former Soviet states, according to sources involved in the project.

The sources emphasize that the mafia is not a monolithic organization. In Russia alone there are hundreds of different mafias, but all share similar characteristics, such as well-organized hierarchies, and the use of violent tactics to control an array of illegal - drugs, gambling, prostitution - and legal businesses.

There are two other commonalities: The mafias have successfully infiltrated the ruling establishment; and when they go international they like to use a local Russian population, preferably one with criminal elements.

"As in any immigrant society, in Israel too, every new wave of immigrants contributed its share to 'organized crime,'" writes Prof. Menahem Amir of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in "Organized Crime in Israel." Amir goes on to describe the development of the Russian mafia in Israel in the paper.

Just how large the Russian mafia is in this country is unclear. Police sources put the number of organized crime mobs in Israel at "a handful." Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal says there are 10 to 15 groups.

Davidovitch and his staff are trying to determine the exact number of Russian mafias operating here. But whatever the final answer, one thing is already clear - the Russian mafia has made major inroads into the country's economy.

Now the police are concerned that the Russian mafia is looking to infiltrate the government.

International Crimes Unit investigators are watching closely to see whether Russian mafia money pouring into the nation is also making its way to politicians. Police suspect the Russian mafia is trying to infiltrate the political echelon through the primary system.

It takes a lot of money to be elected in the primaries, which leaves the door open for organized-crime figures who have a lot of cash to pass around, police sources say. And yet, the sources add, despite the accusations of cynics, the checks and balances of the country's democratic system make it difficult to infiltrate the government.

This is likely to turn the mafia in another direction - toward municipal government. Deputy mayors wield considerable power on the local scene, and thus they make good targets for mafia bribery. Amir says he has received reports of at least two municipalities under investigation by police in connection with mafia payoffs.

Cmdr. Yoram Rodman, who heads the police's Serious Crimes Department, and who would be responsible for any such investigation, denies that such an inquiry of mafia bribery is under way in any of the municipalities.

Criminal elements within the Russian immigrant population have, however, succeeded in penetrating government offices that deal with allocating funds to newcomers, Rodman says. Police suspect the government may have been cheated out of millions of shekels in new-immigrant benefits.

Newcomers sometimes turn to organized-crime networks for everything from false IDs and drivers' licenses from their native countries to fake loan-guarantee signatures and absorption papers here. Rodman describes the immigration-related wrongdoing as "petty thefts," in contrast to the big-money jobs

International Crimes Unit investigators are watching closely to see whether Russian 'dirty' money is making its way to politicians, Bill Hutman reports

being carried out by the Russian mafia.

BETWEEN \$2.5 billion and \$4.5b. has been invested here by the Russian mafia since the collapse of the Soviet Union, according to police sources.

"Israel has become a favorite place for them to invest," Rodman says. "Real estate, companies in various fields, the stock market, bonds - you name it."

One major local developer, speaking on condition of anonymity, recalls a group of Russian "businessmen" entering his office to discuss the purchase of a new building in Haifa. The advertised price for the building was \$10 million. They readily agreed, paying in cash.

Police have received numerous other stories of big-dollar cash purchases, largely of real estate, apparently involving Russian mafia money. Many of the

places purchased are in exclusive communities such as Savoyon, Herzliya Pituah and Nof Yam, according to police.

But why Israel? Rodman cites the relative physical proximity between this country and Russia as one reason. But more important are two other factors, which are political hot potatoes: the lack of legislation preventing laundering of money in Israel; and the large population of Russian-speakers.

Many countries in the West have regulations forcing disclosure of sources of investment to both banks and private developers. No such rules, however, exist in this country. The most common stated defense for this situation is the authorities' desire to make it easy for Jewish immigrants to transfer their money here with "no questions asked."

But there is also another reason. By looking the other way when money from questionable sources is transferred into the country, the authorities encourage the flow of much-needed foreign currency into the economy.

Police say the bankers and others who look at the benefits of cash being brought in by the mafia are short-sighted. As quickly as it invests here now, the mafia will pull out its money, without any concern for the consequent ruined businesses and tumbling property prices.

Depending on how great mafia investment becomes, the effect of a withdrawal could even have harsh effects on the economy. Amir and the police say that the example of Albania, whose economy suffered severely as a result of Russian mafia financial manipulation, should be taken seriously by policy-makers here.

INTERNAL SECURITY Minister Moshe Shahal has come out in favor of legislation preventing the laundering of money. Police brass have followed suit and are also calling for such laws to be adopted, and soon, to counter the continued onslaught of Russian mafia investment.

Police also want tighter checks on who

is allowed into the country. Police sources recommend tighter entrance regulations for tourists and immigrants alike, to keep out criminal elements no matter what country they come from.

"The Russian mafia is taking advantage of the immigration of Russian Jews," says Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of police investigations, after returning last year from a working trip to Russia, where he met with local police officers. "It is important not to give the impression that all Russian immigrants are involved," he adds.

MK Emanuel Zissman, chairman of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, has since come out in favor of tighter enforcement of the Law of Return clauses that allow a potential immigrant with a criminal record to be prevented from coming here. "We need to prevent the immigration of those who can endanger the public and stop a stigma being attached to an entire group," he says.

Russian immigrant organizations criticize police for allegedly stigmatizing newcomers with stories of their connections to criminal elements. Police are now extremely sensitive to the issue, so much so that they avoid even using the term "Russian mafia," preferring instead to speak of organized crime elements with Russian connections.

Says Rodman, "There is no Russian mafia in this country. There is organized crime that is connected with the Russian immigrant population. We're not saying there is no problem in this area, nor are we trying to downplay a serious problem," he continues. "We are watching the situation carefully, seeing how things develop, before coming to any far-reaching conclusions."

For more than two decades, law-enforcement authorities have been struggling with ways to define the international organized-crime elements making headway here.

In "Organized Crime in Israel," Amir describes how for years political sensitivity has caused the authorities to go into denial about the existence of organized crime of any kind here. As a result, the law-enforcement agencies failed to foresee and properly respond to the rise of the Russian mafia. "The authorities here got wind of what was going on late," he says.

The International Crimes Division was set up just six months ago, and has only 20 officers. Rodman readily admits he needs much more manpower.

Moreover, Rodman says, "There are trends in organized crime here that we are only now beginning to see. They must be dealt with immediately, before they get out of control."



Robber barons do laundry in the Mediterranean

But reports of the Russian 'mafia' muscling in on Cyprus may be overstated, writes Thomas O'Dwyer

THE dreary little Heroes Square in the old quarter of Limassol was long ago renamed "Eros Square" by some British soldiers.

In the heyday of the Cold War, the sleazy bars and cheap hotels lining this Cypriot square were sordid dens of intrigue, where spies fell over journalists falling over drunken soldiers pawing "artists" frown in for their cultured entertainment from Beirut, Teheran or Baghdad.

In the mid-1980s several spy scandals at nearby British bases were linked to army or air-force men who had been entrapped by lissome Limassol thighs in the pay of the KGB or its Arab surrogates.

The Cold War is gone and so are the journalists - there's no excitement in mere sleaze without the MI6 or KGB present, and editors will no longer pick up expenses tabs.

Unless of course, one is "doing a piece" on the Russian mafia - the only sexy story the KGB left

in memoriam.

Oddly enough, in the old days one rarely heard Russian spoken in Heroes Square - only Greek, or Arabic, or the drunken grunts that passed for English among the soldiers. Now there are hookers and pimps and shady "businessmen" babbling in the language of Tolstoy.

In truth though, the "Russian mafia in Cyprus" story is as feeble and nebulous as most of the "spy scandals" turned out to be of yore.

They are there - though "mafia" is probably too grand or dignified a word for the crude and cruel connivers and fraudsters busily carving their way out of the collapsed underbelly of communist Russia.

Andreas Georgiou, a Cypriot-born businessman, travels widely in Europe, Asia and North America. "I wouldn't say Cyprus is in the grip of Russian mafia. Every petty Russian crook or shady entrepreneur is not mafia - just a petty crook or shady dealer," he said.

Others disagree. Like Christakis

Foutas, a south-coast vineyard owner: "They come flooding in here, disguised as tourists. There were two types of Soviet shaker and mover. The first was the wheeler-dealer who always had to act as though money-making was a crime, because it was. The second was the official, the state functionary, who knew how to wheeler-deal the bureaucracy and do favors - for a price.

"The only difference today," said Foutas, "is they have passports; and democratic countries are like babies with sweets."

Cypriot police, like their international colleagues, no longer worry about Russia exporting communism or terrorism. They fear these goodies have been replaced by the more lucrative commodity - global organized

crime that's spreading faster than communism ever did.

"Interpol suggests there are about 200 Russian crime syndicates in 30 countries outside Russia," said a Nicosia police source.

"Cyprus and Israel are small beer in this pond," he added. "The media focus on Israel because it has so many legal Russians, and on Cyprus because of our offshore business and huge tourist traffic."

Indeed the Russian Central Bank has estimated that about \$1 billion a month has been deposited in offshore bank accounts in Cyprus. This is small change in the tens of billions the same bank estimates Russian criminal organizations are sloshing around the world.

Cypriot authorities doubt such figures can be accurately calculated. They point out that Cyprus is no shady bank haven. The country has a small offshore banking sec-

tor and regulation of their operations is tightly controlled by a very sophisticated Central Bank. Scandals can cost this small island of 600,000 people and a gross domestic product of \$6.5 billion very dearly.

Cyprus already tightened regulations after some suggestions that Yugoslav factions were trying to use its offshore facilities to launder money and arms deals about two years ago.

"There are now 21 offshore banks - most in the form of a branch - with a license to operate on an offshore basis from Cyprus," said a banking official. Three foreign banks have representative offices, but there are several thousand other registered offshore businesses, ranging from construction and financial services to media and computer technology.

"Licenses are given only to

banks adhering to the Concordat, issued by the Basel Committee of Banking Regulations and Supervision and which are of a good reputation internationally," the official said.

Banking officials sniff disdainfully at suggestions of large-scale Russian money laundering. They say Cyprus is both fortunate and unfortunate to be a small democratic crossroads on the paths of east-west intrigue - a place where Arabs and Israelis have sometimes clashed, where Lebanese, Yugoslavs and Russians have sought refuge, or a safe haven to wheel and deal in fast bucks, drugs, "artists" or nifty passports.

This is not because Cyprus is corrupt, which it isn't, but because its tiny law-enforcement structure cannot really cope with fast-moving international crime. World criminals move freely around the globe and take up residences outside the enforcement zones of their activities.

"They connive to sell the resources of their countries on an open global market. They store their profits in safe havens and create residences far from the criminal enterprise zones," writes Lydia Rosner, an American criminal justice professor and author of *The Soviet Way of Crime*. "This

kind of criminality, previously limited to drug lords and arms dealers, is now available for the price of a discount airline ticket."

Cypriots are philosophical about the future of "the Russian mafia." They remember they have been through other media scare stories in recent years and come out of them wealthy, unscathed and with a good international reputation. There was the collapse of the economy when Turkey invaded in 1974, which resulted in half the population being driven from their homes. Then the Lebanese came flooding in during 1975 and there were fears the island would sink under Levantine terrorism and corruption.

Most experts in Cyprus believe that while a hard core of criminals will remain, the Russian mafia overseas are mainly concerned with legitimizing their shadily acquired riches as quickly as possible.

"In 10 years' time," said the police source, "hardly anyone will remember where most of the respectable Russia businessmen with holiday villas in this region got their wealth.

"Are they any different than the old robber barons of Europe? I no don't think so. It's just taken them a bit of time to catch up."

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Backlash on 'The Economist'

FOUR columns devoted to The Economist, including one by its international editor Stephen Hugh-Jones rebutting the first two, should be enough. But the following, sent by Hugh-Jones as a letter to the editor in response to last week's column, deserves publication:

David Bar-Ilan, devoting yet a third "Eye on the Media" column to myself and The Economist, has printed - inter alia - a gross and total lie.

He alleges that I told a person in Massachusetts that I could "understand Palestinians killing Jewish civilians, men, women and children." Those words are pure fiction, wholly invented by your misinformant.

What I said to her was that I could understand Palestinians feeling their country had been taken from them in 1948 and 1967; and that I could understand their resistance to this.

I do not feel, have not said and could not say, the words falsely put in my mouth. Whatever the reasons for resistance - anywhere - I do not for one second think it justifiable to kill civilians, let alone women and children, in that cause; and least of all, for reasons obvious to any European, if they are Jewish.

Secondly, your columnist defends his failure even to contact me or this paper before printing attacks upon us, with the claim that he reviews "published articles."

That is flatly untrue. The greater part of his second attack consisted of uncritical reprinting of a letter sent to me, personally by CAMERA; not what The Economist or I had written, but what they claimed we had written, or think we ought to have written.

And now, he is "reviewing" an even more fantastical and wholly false invention (and again without phoning me).

The one thing in which your columnist is fair - though not intentionally - is to accuse me of defending Jews under attack. True. Nor am I in the least ashamed to have expressed sympathy with Jews, be it maudlin or otherwise. In

these bloody times, I repeat that feeling today. So much for Bar-Ilan's renewed and utterly false, insinuations of anti-semitism.

AS IN his guest column, Hugh-Jones's style is distinguished for scrupulous avoidance of fact-based arguments. Perhaps it has to do with his inability to refute such arguments. He complains of what he says is "a gross and total lie." But whether it is he who is telling the truth about "understanding Palestinians killing Jewish civilians" or Karin McQuillan, whose letter states that he said precisely that, is neither verifiable nor relevant.

The main point of McQuillan's report on her conversation with Hugh-Jones is that he believes Jews have as much right to Israel as Amazon Indians have to California - an area they passed on their way from Asia to South America. Hugh-Jones does not deny saying this, or can be. It takes the ripe imagination of a journalist with an extensive knowledge of migrations to invent such an offensive analogy.

His other complaints are puzzling. There is no difference between basing criticisms on published articles and relying on the documented criticisms of a reputable monitoring group like CAMERA, which always cites chapter and verse.

Hugh-Jones again protests the "insinuation" of antisemitism. As I stated last week, neither CAMERA nor I ever called him an antisemite. But there is something to be said for the action that applying a double standard to Israel is a form of antisemitism.

Even comparing the Jews' right to their land with that of the Amazon Indians' putative claim to California smacks of bigotry - the gentile kind, to be sure. But a man who flaunts dining with the chief rabbi as proof of his liberalism may find it impossible ever to understand what's wrong with his attitude.

An avid admirer of Hugh-Jones's, Bruce Hill of New Zealand, has also

written a priceless letter, the main part of which reads: David Bar-Ilan, who used to be an interesting and readable journalist, [is] descending pitifully into states of frenzied paranoia... If a journalist in the organization I work for was to behave as David Bar-Ilan does, he would be instantly dismissed.

It took me some time to recover from the devastating thought that Hill would fire me if I worked for him in New Zealand.

A letter from M. Brachfeld of Jerusalem included the following:

Many [pro-Israel] letters must have been received by The Economist... I don't recall ever having read one. I have myself written to The Economist at least twice, asking whether the facts that were published were corroborated, as would be appropriate for a reputable paper. I did not get an answer.

THE POINT Brachfeld raises is significant. No publication can print all letters. But honest journals try to publish a cross-section of readers' responses, or at least reflect public reaction by publishing letters in the proportion they are received.

I know The Economist gets a multitude of letters criticizing its reporting on the Middle East. Yet the magazine chooses mostly anti-Israel diatribes. Two examples from a post-Rabin assassination issue are typical: When one Arab commits a crime, all Palestinians are guilty. Where was the curfew on all Jews after Mr. Rabin was murdered, as there would have been on Arabs? A Jewish killer is an unbearable exception, an Arab one a racial stereotype. Writes Desmond Hickey.

And in the only other letter printed on Israel in that week's issue, Rob Kent says: The Palestinian refugees' right of return is more than a belief or an example of 'fundamentalist thinking.' It is an



Stephen Hugh-Jones: 'I have expressed sympathy with Jews.'

issue of international law and natural justice, as well as the foundation of any lasting peace in the region. In 1948 'ethnic cleansing' took place... with war and expulsions emptying more than 400 Arab villages and towns. Over 600,000 Palestinians lost their homes and property. Now 3m Palestinians live in exile... But the following, written by Robert Kirk to The Economist, was never published:

Your report from Gaza (Feb. 10-16, 1996) on the sluggish Palestinian economy, largely blames Israel, citing: border closures which, according to Yasser Arafat, cost the Palestinians \$3m a day; costly delays resulting from lengthy searches of Palestinian goods and vehicles bound for Jordan; and a sharp reduction in Palestinian workers allowed into Israel - down from 120,000 annually in 1992 to only 30,000 now. "Israeli obstruction," you concluded. However, you omitted, and therefore

failed to assess the impact of, the numerous Islamic terrorist attacks, including suicide bus bombings, which have killed over 150 Israelis since the September 1993 Israel-PLO agreement; this, in addition to the nearly 200 Israeli civilians killed during the 'Intifada' by Palestinians ostensibly coming into Israel to work.

Palestinian terrorism, not 'Israeli obstruction,' has resulted in periodic border closures; time-consuming searches of vehicles for explosives and weapons; and large cutbacks in Palestinian workers allowed into Israel. The Economist should stick to the facts and eschew habitual, one-sided, pro-Palestinian propaganda accounts.

Obviously, to get a letter printed in The Economist one should reinforce the magazine's own position and take the Arab side.

But Kirk's letter, like many others critical of the magazine's reporting on Israel, elicited a long reply from Hugh-Jones, the gist of which was that the magazine lacked space for all "the causes of those causes."

And in what can only be described as an insult to his readers' intelligence, Hugh Jones writes, "If you read a piece on (say) the problems of cross-border transport in the EU... would you then seriously expect to be told about recent terrorist activity in Europe?" It makes one wonder if Hugh-Jones is living on this planet. The Economist's March 2-8 issue, whose cover story and three other stories spread over seven pages inside are devoted to terrorism, is yet another exercise in "moral equivalence" typical of subtle anti-Israel writing. Example: To many Israelis, everyone from the suicide-bombers in Jerusalem or Ashkelon to the Hizbullah grenade-thrower in South Lebanon is a terrorist; to many Arabs during the 1982 Lebanon War, the worst terrorists in the Middle East were the entirely legitimate, uniformed Israeli Defense Force.

Or: The Munich terrorists killed 11

Israelis; Israel's retaliation against the Lebanese town of Nabatieh, however justified, killed about 100 Arabs. There is of course no connection between the two. But an innocent reader can hardly be blamed for supposing that Israel killed 100 civilians in Nabatieh in retaliation for the Munich massacre.

The lead article - a mixture of historic survey and editorial - is striking for its inaccuracies. The venerated magazine refers to 50 years of terrorism in the Middle East, ignoring Arab terrorism in 1920, 1929 and 1936-39 which caused the death of 800 Jews; it places the blowing up of the King David in 1948, and describes the Intifada as the Palestinian uprising of 1987-90.

And, using euphemisms which would shame Soviet propagandists, it refers to airline hijackings and the Munich, Ma'alot and coastal road massacres as "PLO's campaigns."

The Economist does allow that "any movement that still seeks... the destruction of Israel... will very rightly find that its bombers face a Western world united behind the Jewish state." And it is unequivocally opposed to suicide bus bombings. But it takes four pages of editorial writing to do so - with the de rigueur mention of Deir Yassin and the King David bombing - just to remind readers that, well, Jews do that sort of thing too. For this kind of history, it never seems short of space.

The March 2 issue also has a news article called "Arafat's dilemma." Taking the straight PLO-Hamas line, it attributes the bus bombings to the need to avenge the killing of Yihye Ayyash. It commiserates with Arafat for being attacked by human rights organizations after trying to curb Hamas with mass arrests, and ends by advising him to ignore Israeli demands: If Arafat acts against the group in the way that the Israelis are urging, the whole organization could become outlawed, and even more murderous, religious militia. For even-handedness on the Middle East, don't search The Economist.

Put real Jerusalem issues before silly slogans

ARE there secret plans and secret talks on the possible future division of Jerusalem? The whole subject is not nearly as central as many politicians are trying to make it.

The country has much more burning topics to deal with than the final settlement on Jerusalem. Indeed our continued sovereignty over the city is one of the few topics about which there is a national consensus. Right now other issues are more important to Israel as a whole, and to Jerusalem itself.

For instance, the growing abyss between secular and Orthodox Jews is much more dangerous than Arafat's ambitions regarding the city. It is unlikely that either a Labor or a Likud government would give half of Jerusalem to the Palestinians; but the city's loss of industry and of its productive, secular citizens, especially the young ones, is becoming a very real danger.

Unfortunately this issue doesn't interest either the big parties or the media, so it remains neglected.

In Jerusalem, only Orthodox schools provide a long school day, transportation and a hot meal for their pupils. Consequently 51 percent of the city's Jewish pupils are enrolled in religious schools. Clearly, if some secular political figures focused on this instead of on who will sell the city to the Arabs, we might have a more balanced education system, and more chance of retaining our secular population.

But Jerusalem's political future is brought up again and again by

CAPITAL TALK
TEDDY KOLLEK
with AMOS KOLLEK

the Likud for no reason. At the same time, social and economic issues of the utmost importance remain utterly neglected.

Vis-a-vis the Arab world, Israel's situation has never been better, or less threatened. This also applies to Jerusalem and the Golan, matters which, though complicated, do not in reality

threaten our existence in the manner that election slogans and stickers suggest. Given some time and quiet, these issues will resolve themselves in due course.

The serious dangers to our existence come from inside: The gap between rich and poor is widening; the mutual hatred of the religious and the secular is growing; the values of our young are diminishing.

The quality and quantity of people who go into public service is declining, as is the standard of

manners generally. Conversely, the crime rate is rising.

Although all these issues are far more important than the silly election-slogan war waged between the Likud and Labor, hardly anybody mentions them. It is a sad comment on the times we live in.

What cannot be easily sold on TV falls by the wayside. Those politicians who claim to be so worried about the future of Jerusalem would serve the city better by establishing parity in the quality of secular and Orthodox

The aggressor who lost wants to be compensated

A DELEGATION of Palestinian expatriates came to demand justice, as did a Pan-Arab delegation and an Egyptian one. The respondent in all three civil suits was Israel.

Interestingly, the briefs of all three cited the Tanach for corroborating evidence.

The year was 331 BCE. The plaintiffs were appealing to the wisdom of Alexander the Great, during his visit to Jerusalem on his path of world conquest.

The Jews were frantic, for the stakes were high, very high, on both the national and personal levels: the loss of Eretz Yisrael and total impoverishment, perhaps even new enslavement.

No one was ready to undertake what seemed the impossible task of defending the Jewish cause. They thought of simply asking Alexander for mercy, in the name of the God of the high priest Shimon Hatzaddik (the Just), who had appeared to Alexander in a vision in which he assured the world conqueror that he was on a victorious road.

Finally the hunchback Gevaha ben Pessisa offered to respond to the suits. He told the skeptical leaders: "If we win, you can proclaim that the matter is so out and dried that even a coating like Gevaha ben Pessisa was able to refute the charges simply by citing the relevant Torah passages. If we lose, you can appeal on the grounds of having been poorly defended by this incompetent Gevaha ben Pessisa."

First to present their claim were the "Palestinians," rather the Girgashites. These were one of the seven nations inhabiting Canaan when Joshua arrived with the Jews to take possession of the Promised Land and the only one to choose relocation - to Africa - rather than submit to Jewish rule or go to war against the Jews.

Now they demanded the return of what the Tanach (remember: all the plaintiffs cited the Tanach as their authority) numerous times calls the "Land of Canaan."

In response Gevaha cited Genesis 9:25-26, where Noah ordains that Ham's son Canaan shall be a servant to Ham's brothers, Shem, father of the Semitic peoples, and Japheth. And, he

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

noted, the law grants the master ownership of all his servant's possessions.

The Girgashites had no rebuttal and returned to Africa.

Next the Pan-Arab advocate spoke for what was then called the Ishmaelites. Citing Deuteronomy 21:15-17, he demanded restitution for what his ancestor Ishmael had been deprived of: as Patriarch Abraham's firstborn son, born of Abraham's despised wife, Hagar, he had been entitled to inherit two thirds of Abraham's wealth.

In rebuttal, Gevaha cited the principle whereby a living person may distribute his wealth as he sees fit, which Abraham had done (Genesis 25:5-6).

The Ishmaelites, too, had no rebuttal, and Alexander ruled for the Jews.

Now the Egyptian advocate, citing Exodus 11:2 and 12:35-36, demanded payment for the Egyptian gold and silver the Jews took with them in their Exodus a millennium earlier.

Gevaha agreed, with one stipulation: In light of Exodus 12:40, let the Egyptians calculate how much they owe the Jews for the 430 years of the free slave labor of 600,000, able-bodied males, and let us see how the two debts balance out.

The Egyptians agreed, calculated, and found that at the going rate of a dinar a day Egypt would be bankrupt on payment of the first 100 years' wages. And they withdrew their suit.

The anniversary of Gevaha's victory, Nissan 24, was a semi-holiday in Second Temple times. (See Megillat To'anit, chapter 3; Sanhedrin 91a; Bereshit Rabba 61:7; Yerushalmi Shevi'it 6:1.)

THIS LEGEND comes to mind each time I hear Arab spokesmen charge us with stealing their hirtzright.

It stormed into my mind when I read last week that our present-day Girgashites claim that in the wake of the 1948 war, they were dispossessed of 5,700 structures and/or plots of ground in western

Jerusalem, and that they have compiled a dossier of maps and documents allegedly authenticating their claims of ownership of 3,000 of those properties. They plan to present their claim at the negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem and to appeal to international law (Yedias Aharonot, February 29).

We may assume that unlike the ancient Canaanites they claim as their ancestors, our Girgashites won't be citing the Tanach. (For that matter, neither do our spokesmen resort much to the Tanach, except - and often by misquotation - to throw "universal Jewish values" at Jews who find that the Tanach also teaches Jewishness of nation, ritual and liturgy.)

Yet we may apply the tactic Gevaha used in refuting the Egyptians' claim.

Our spokesmen assure us that Jerusalem is not negotiable. Do they?

Well, no harm in having a counterclaim ready.

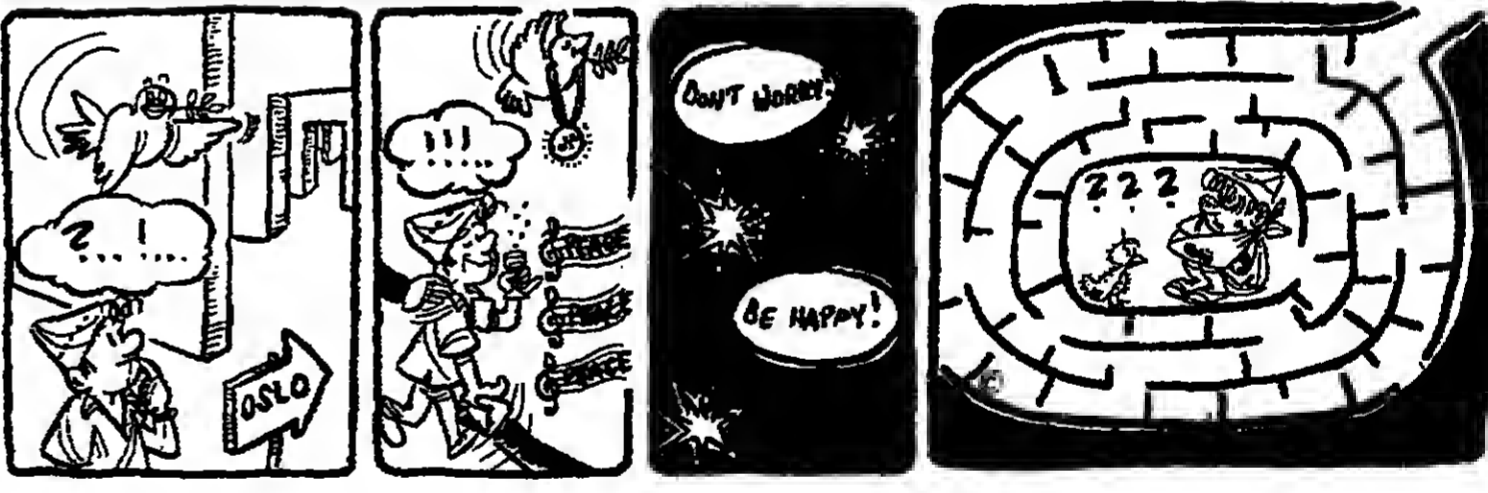
Here is my suggestion: Let the negotiators calculate the value of the property, both movable and real estate, that hundreds of thousands of Jews had to leave behind when they fled from Arab lands.

Let them calculate the toll of death, maiming and damage to property our Girgashites inflicted on us in the war of annihilation they launched against us in 1948, which brought about their dispossession. Add to this the killing and maiming of persons, the misery, and the destruction of property perpetrated against us and our Arab allies, the "collaborators," over the past century by our Girgashites and those claiming to act in their or their Liberation Theology's name.

Do you know of another instance in history when a recidivist aggressor who lost was judged to be entitled to compensation?

THE END of the 20th century and the dawning of the 21st will make sense only if civilized people everywhere unite to ruthlessly stamp out Arab gangsterism, and all other forms of physical and moral gangsterism eating away at humanity everywhere.

BRULIK by DOSH



Crime and punishment

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"And God said to Moses, Go down, for the people whom you brought out of Egypt have become corrupt. They have turned aside to leave the way that I commanded them to follow, and they have made a molten calf and have worshipped it and have sacrificed to it..." (Ex. 32:7-8)

HOW should we react when a member of our community - or even a member of our family - commits a transgression? Does the need for punishment determine our attitude, or should the dominant response be unconditional love?

God, the Judge of us all, is described by our Sages as "the Lord of love before we transgress and the Lord of love after we transgress." Is it indeed possible to synthesize law and love in our approach to wrongdoers?

Let us attempt to define a proper reaction to sin from Moses' reaction to the sin of the Golden Calf. After all, it wasn't only what the Israelites did, it was also when they did it - 40 days after the revelation at Sinai. Adultery is had enough, but adultery during the honeymoon is a violation of everything sacred to the human spirit.

Moses' first reaction is to seek a punishment that fits the crime. He breaks the tablets of stone. God had given to the Israelites the unique gift of Torah, a prescription of conduct which would grant them eternal life. By transgressing the most primary of its Divine commands, the Israelites proved themselves unworthy of this Divine gift. Hence Moses

destroys the tablets! Next, Moses destroys the golden idol by burning it and grinding it into a bitter brew, which he makes the Israelites drink. If they want to wallow in idolatry, let them taste the foul bitterness of their corrupt hearts.

God then seemingly tests Moses by suggesting a second collective punishment. "Leave Me alone, and I will destroy them [all]." (Ex. 32:9)

The Divine implication is that were Moses to provide the proper argument, the Jewish people would not be entirely destroyed. Indeed, the 3,000 main perpetrators of the idolatrous act perish by the sword. But this is a function of the severity of the crime, and of the need to provide a deterrent for all generations.

Moses emphatically rejects the possibility of Israel being destroyed, instead making a distinction between the crime and the perpetrators. And even when the perpetrators are declared guilty, it is crucial to understand their motivation. And this for two reasons. First of all, some individuals may be guiltier than others. Secondly, it is necessary to remove the causes of the crime if you sincerely hope to prevent a repeat performance.

Hence, Moses' argument is comprised of three elements. He begins by pointing out the mitigating circumstances. What can you expect from a people who until recently were steeped in all

parents. Indeed, everything Moses says and does are the words and actions of a concerned parent.

The first thing a parent-leader must do is condemn the wayward act, with no ifs, ands or buts; but it's necessary to remember that even if the act is irreparably evil, the perpetrator is not necessarily so. He must certainly be punished, hopefully with a punishment that fits the crime.

But then the parent-leader must take one step back. Although a mature adult must take ultimate responsibility for his actions, must not the parent-leader himself assume some measure of responsibility as well? How sensitive was he to the telltale signs? Might the act have been prevented? Poverty does not justify theft. Just as overachieving parents cannot be blamed for their offspring's laziness. But in both instances, the parent-leader has as much to learn from an unfortunate incident, as do the transgressors.

In the final analysis, a mark of Cain brings as much shame and tragedy to the parent as it does to the criminal. A couple can get divorced - often with initial pain but usually with ultimate healing. But a parent can never be divorced from a child; even if the ongoing relationship disappears, the pain only grows stronger.

The final message of the episode is perhaps the most significant. God our Parent in Heaven always has His hands outstretched, ready to accept His returning errant children once again.

Shabbat Shalom

Up the academy

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

IN what promises to be one of the biggest ever boosts to local chess, the first of the planned four stories of the eagerly-awaited Israel Chess Academy in Ramat Aviv was recently completed.

Under the auspices of the four founding bodies - the Sol Mark Center, the Garry Kasparov Foundation, the Tel Aviv Municipality and the Israel Chess Federation - the academy is to become, according to the publicity brochure, "what the chess world expects and does not have yet, what it needs and could not as yet produce."

The academy will train teachers and coaches, host competitions, conduct conferences, and explore the psychology and methodology of chess tuition. Supported by a state-of-the-art library, the academy will conduct research into all aspects of the game.

World Champion Garry Kasparov agreed to help the center become "the world's most authoritative chess academy." The brochure eloquently expresses the need for such a center. Chess, it says, is "much more than a game, it is a culture." Chess "is as simple as life itself, yet as complex and intriguing as existence." It "promises glory to the poor and humility to the mighty."

One of the obvious advantages computers have over their human adversaries is that they are supposed to be consistent. A microchip should not be discouraged by defeat nor invigorated by victory. The super-computer Deep Blue, however, indicated that it might have secretly taken on board these essentially human traits. Having lost game two and game five in the recent six-game series against Kasparov, Deep Blue fell to pieces, producing a miserable performance in the final game.

Kasparov, Garry - Deep Blue Philadelphia 1996 - Game 6 Slav Opening

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.c4 e4 4.Nbd2 Nf6 5.e3 c5 6.b3 Nc6 7.Bb2 cxd4 8.exd4 Be7 9.Rc1 0-0 10.Bd3 Bd7 11.0-0 Nh5 12.Rel Nf4 13.Bh1 Bd6 14.g3 Ng6 15.Ne5 Rc8 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Nf3 Bb4 18.Rc3 Rd8 19.h4 Nge7 20.a3 Ba5 21.h4 Be7 22.e5 Re8 23.Qd3 g6 24.Re2 Nf5 25.Bc3 h5 26.Nc7 27.Bd2 Kg7 28.a4 Ra8 29.a5 a6 30.b6 Bb8 31.Bc2 Nc6 32.Ba4

Re7 33.Bc3 Ne5

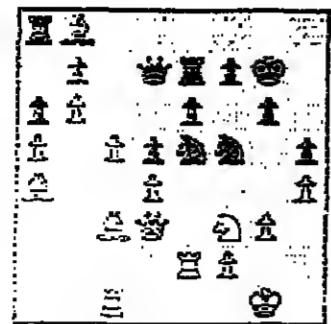


DIAGRAM 1
after Black's 33rd move
34.dxe5! Qxa4 35.Nd4 Nxd4 36.Qxd4 Qd7 37.Bd2 Re8 38.Bg5 Re8 39.Bf6 Kh7 40.e6 bxc6 41.Qc5 Kh6 42.Rb2 Qb7 43.Rb4 1-0

HAPOEL Rishon Lezion managed to cling on to first place at the end of round six of the National League by sharing the honors 2.5 - 2.5 with last year's champion Elitzur Petah Tikva, on 23 points, trail the leaders by a solitary point, with Hapoel Herzliya just one further point off the pace.

The Israel Chess Federation's decision to have all National League games played on the same date and at the same venue has proved a great success in drawing to the crowds and opening chess up to the general public.

Federation officials report that 610 teams, fielding 6,000 players, are registered in the nine leagues.

In his 1966 game versus Uhlmann in Szombathely, the legendary David Bronstein (Black) was on the wrong end of a simple combination. White to play and win.

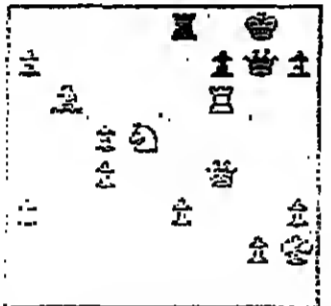


DIAGRAM 2
Solution: White wins at least a whole piece after vacating the f6 square with 1.Rxb6 axb6 2.Nf6+ Kh8, if 2.Kf8, 3.Qd6 Re7 4.Qd8+ and mate next move 1-0.



Owls may be making a comeback in Israel.

The wonder of owls

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

I have seen more owls this winter than I can ever remember. Sitting on my balcony at night I've seen Barn Owls, and at least two Eagle Owls have been spotted nearby. A Scops Owl was seen sleeping in a cypress tree in the middle of the day, and I've spotted Little Owls sitting on a post or on a barn in the moonlight. Even if one doesn't see the owls, one can certainly hear them.

Owls represent different things in different cultures. In the Middle and Far East they are perceived as being somewhat evil. In the Tanach and the Talmud, they are the ultimate symbols of desolation, loss and abandonment. Further east, the owl is said to be the evil harbinger of death and destruction.

It is only in cultures influenced by the Greek and the Roman traditions where the owl is wise and all-knowing. But even here, it is not really benevolent but a creature of mystery.

A part of the owl's mystique is due to its nocturnal nature. We diurnal beings have an innate suspicion of creatures of the night that may well be an atavistic reac-

tion to a time when the greatest threat to man was from animals which would prey on him while he slept. We have a similar ambivalence about many nocturnal creatures, including bats and cats.

Owls have a range of size that is quite unusual within a given avian genus and even within a specific family. This can be seen in the 10 species of owls, whether resident breeders or seasonal migratory visitors, found here.

The smallest local owl is the Scops Owl (*Otus scops* in Latin), a bird with a body about 18 cm long, a wing length of about 15 cm, and a total body weight of only 60-70 gr. Contrast this with the Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo* in Latin), a bird whose ear tufts alone are a full 7 cm long, that is almost half as long as the entire body of a Scops Owl. The Eagle Owl is up to 65 cm long, the wing is up to 47 cm long and a full grown female can weigh up to

2,900 gr. Owls prey on mice, voles, birds, insects, lizards and lizards. Large Eagle Owls sometimes raid chicken runs and can easily carry off a full-grown fowl. Once in the Jerusalem hills we watched in shock as an Eagle Owl swooped down and made off into the night with a fairly large kinen.

Owls do not build nests of their own but utilize existing nest areas, sometimes abandoned by other birds, more often holes in structures and in some, like the Little Owl, (*Athene noctua* in Latin, *kar* in Hebrew), the burrows of rodents or cliff-dwelling birds such as rollers and bee-eaters.

Most owls nest only once a year and have four to six hatchlings which they tend until they reach independence. Their populations have been somewhat diminished in recent years due to loss of open country hunting habitat and the increased use of poisons for voles and other field rodents. But it now seems, if our local situation here in Galilee is any indication, they just may be making a comeback.

Home court - an advantage?

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

East dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North			
♠	10 7 6		
♥	9 8 4 2		
♦	10		
♣	K 10 8 6 4		
West			
♠	K 9 4 3 2		
♥	J 10 6 5		
♦	7 5		
♣	9 5		
East			
♠	J 8 5		
♥	K Q 7 3		
♦	Q 3		
♣	A Q J 2		
South (Cohen)			
♠	A Q		
♥	A		
♦	A K J 9 8 6 4 2		
♣	7 3		

West	North	East	South
-	-	1 C	3 NT
(all pass)			

Opening lead: ♠ 3

WHEN a bridge tournament takes place near your home, do you have an advantage? There are two ways of looking at the problem, which occurred last month when Israelis took part in the 30th International Bridge Festival in Tel Aviv.

The advantages of sleeping in your own bed, not having jet lag and knowing many of your opponents are strong ones. But the disadvantages of going to work on the same day you are competing, getting up early in the morning with the children, and dealing with other routine responsibilities all make for a tired mind at the table.

Indeed, most of the Israeli Bridge Federation championships during the regular calendar year are staged on Shabbat for these alleged reasons.

Nevertheless, the tremendous number of participants at the festival during the weekday sessions should give the federation strong reason to change its scheduling policies. There were more than 2,750 tables filled at this tournament, mostly by working people who were happy to take off from their jobs or play bridge after work from 4 p.m. till midnight.

Many prefer to play during the week rather than on Shabbat for family or religious reasons.

Israelis also proved that they could play at the top of their game, especially in the mixed events. The mixed teams, which require two male-female partnerships, was won by Rami Kook

and David Fohrer of Jerusalem and Shula Goordetsky and Hanita Melech of Tel Aviv.

Another victory came in the mixed pairs, won by local international star Danny Cohen and his partner, Iana Birner, both of Tel Aviv.

Cohen showed his unique ability to make the right bid at the right time on this week's deal from the event. He held the South hand and had to make a call after his right-hand opponent opened the bidding one club. The hand is too strong for a simple one-diamond overcall, and though it does not include support for the majors, the takeout double followed by a diamond bid would be the popular plan.

There are two other approaches, however, one very old and one very modern, that should be considered. The old-fashioned call is two clubs, a strong cuebid. Before the 1960s, the direct cuebid was popular as a way of showing a game-forcing hand with any distribution. This method was dropped because of the infrequency of such hands and the Michaels Cuebid took its place.

This cuebid - which would be the bid of two clubs in today's auction - is reserved for a two-suited hand, in this case 5-5 in the majors.

The ultra-modern call over one club is three clubs. This jump cuebid became popular in the 1990s to show a solid suit - anywhere - and a strong hand, asking partner to bid three notrump if he has a stopper in the opening bidder's suit. Thus, a three-club jump over one club would describe today's South hand, with the slight flaw that the diamond suit is not solid. This may be overlooked in the hope that the queen of diamonds will fall under the ace and king.

Cohen demonstrated that all these conventional bids are not necessary to win at Top-Bottom scoring when he gambled on three notrump himself. He was hoping either that his partner held something to help in clubs or, more importantly, that West would find a major-suit lead and that the diamond queen would come tumbling down.

The vicious cycle of poverty

FUNDS
BEVERLEE BLACK

SOMETIMES it seems that the problems of poverty are overlooked. This despite the fact that, according to the government and voluntary bodies, more and more Israelis, especially those with large families, are being pushed to the bottom of the pile.

Children who go to bed hungry usually lack the supplementary facilities needed for a good education. They need books and magazines, and extra lessons that will enable them to drag themselves out of the vicious cycle of poverty and deprivation.

The demands on us are endless. An immigrant from Russia needs dental treatment for his rotting teeth; a mother of eight has no money to buy her kids decent rain-resistant shoes; a new immigrant walks 8 km. to and from university each day in order to save the bus fare.

With your help, we can make a difference for them and many others - but we need your help now. So drop a check in the mail today to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Doors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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\$36 In gratitude for grandchildren Maefel and Sivan Masvart of Kadima - Herb and Henry Margoshes, Marblehead, MA.
\$18 Dr. and Mrs. B. Kramer.
\$5 Anon.

Gordon, Netanya. In loving memory of our beloved Mooty - D.R.S. In loving memory of Alton, our son, brother and grandson - Monica, Sharon, Shmuel, Doron, Gal and Shani Bitan, Kfar Blum. In loving memory of Ari Levy - Mrs. Sara Kops, J'lm.
NIS 50 In memory of the 25th yahrzeit of Charles Oser - Oser and Shaw family. In memory of our brother Victor Haim - Richard Haim and sisters. In memory of the victims of the Jerusalem bus bombings.
\$1,000 Drs. Esther and Lester Sparburg, Great Neck, NY. (via PEP).
\$150 In memory of my parents Benjamin Edelberg and Clara Rosenzweig.
\$60 Roni and Steve Hirsch, Kiryat Tivon.
\$36 In loving memory of Ari Levy - Harold and Fran Bork, Philadelphia, PA.

NIS 2,990 Progress Totals
NIS 19,752.64
\$246 \$15,426.69
(other currencies converted into shekels)

WELCOME HOME FUND
NIS 2,000 Apple Diamonds, Ramat Gan.
NIS 200 Phyllis Rudy, Ramat Hasharon.
NIS 108 Given in loving memory of Melanie who died 5th Adar 5749 - From her brother and sister.
\$180 In memory of Lester Glazer - Susan and Mel Fastow, Bayside, NY.
\$150 In the memory of my parents Benjamin Edelberg and Clara Rosenzweig.
\$60 Roni and Steve Hirsch, Kiryat Tivon.
\$50 Michel Eckstein, Three Bridges, NJ.
\$18 Anon., Hartford, CT.

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\$18 Anon., Hartford, CT.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Given advance notice of wanderer going astray (10)
 - 9 They're given to those who beg for weapons, we hear (4)
 - 10 Madrid is in her itinerary, but part can be cut off (10)
 - 11 Agree to old lag's dog (6)
 - 12 A highly vocal female (7)
 - 15 Hear only half the score, yet cheer (7)
 - 16 Facilitated return by stamped addressed envelope to editor (5)
 - 17 Food and money for the journey (4)
 - 18 Footwear she has a hole in (4)
 - 19 Give hot tips at barbers (5)
 - 21 Ladies and gentlemen, a T S Eliot production (7)

- 22 Passage taken from book unless it holds reader at the start (7)
- 24 S African doctor brought in by military aircraft (6)
- 27 One who is deep in the letters of Freud and Eliot (10)
- 28 Family row (4)
- 29 Stump causing gloom (10)

- 7 Shrewd fiddler in sticky leg trap (10)
- 8 Chap under terrible strain becomes scorbic (10)
- 12 Security zone for motorist (6,4)
- 13 Assembly, part male in composition (10)
- 14 A spot of refreshment (5)
- 15 Field division that takes years to train (5)
- 19 Deformed, an tried a body-building drug (7)
- 20 Questing cut-back by colliery (7)
- 23 Point to eleven the French made outcasts (6)
- 25 Refrain from piling up dishes (4)
- 26 The lady's ring is one much admired (4)

DOWN

- 2 Forget to leave out (4)
- 3 He's in charge but has a leader (6)
- 4 An hotel looks different in Ireland (7)
- 5 Girl has lost a pattern (4)
- 6 Being abandoned, many felt irritated (7)

SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Terrace, 7 Truck, 8 Footstool, 9 Pal, 10 Dado, 11 Snazzy, 13 Bazaar, 14 Pencil, 17 Ensign, 18 Flat, 20 Fax, 23 Available, 25 Ruler, 24 St Helens.

DOWN: 1 Topaz, 2 Escadon, 3 Ager, 4 Engine, 5 Jumpy, 6 Skilful, 7 Tanned, 10 Bassoon, 12 Bassist, 15 Cellars, 16 Agitant, 17 Enail, 19 Theta, 21 Pha.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hunky (6)
 - 4 Might (5)
 - 8 Lowest point (5)
 - 9 Infinite (7)
 - 10 Long steps (7)
 - 11 Encounter (4)
 - 12 Sprite (3)
 - 14 Soon (4)
 - 15 Golf club (4)
 - 18 Beverage (3)
 - 21 Jot (4)
 - 23 Hide (7)
 - 25 Storm (7)
 - 26 Angry (6)
 - 27 Crest (5)
 -

A Mexican 'Bohemia'

DAY ONE: Browse bristling cacti. Assess crashing Pacific. Big dinner. Not much happens.

DAY TWO: Swim off an 800-meter-long beach, utterly alone. Sight wildlife: a two-inch frog crossing the busiest street in town, inch by inch, untroubled by traffic, at 9 p.m.

DAY THREE: Day One, with a bigger dinner.

DAY FOUR: Departure. Despair. Todos Santos ("All Saints"), a small miracle of peace, quiet and creeping bohemianism, lies about 80 kilometers north of Cabo San Lucas, at the tip of Mexico's Gulf of California. It is a town of mostly unpaved streets, of thatched roofs and sleeping dogs, and crumbling adobe walls and ruined old sugar mills, with farms set among the cactus and palms on its outskirts.

It is sustained by the farming and fishing of several thousand Mexicans, the crumpled dollars of wayward surfers, and the artsy aspirations of a few dozen international emigres. Though a sign outside town puts the population at 3,400, local estimates run from 5,000 to 8,000.

Visitors lie low, eat under palapa roofs, sleep cheap, ponder epic desert, possibly attempt watercolors. They probably don't go sport-fishing (there's no marina) or hell-raising (there's one pool hall and no nightclubs, though a sports bar is rumored to be coming). They may not even lounge by the pool: only a couple of lodgings have them.

There is one traffic signal in Todos Santos, and one gas station. Once Mexico Highway 19 takes you out of town, unfenced cows are prone to wander across the two blacktop lanes. The nearest beach is about five kilometers from downtown, and the coastal waters can be perilously rough.

The town hangs in a dangerously delicate state of mid-transformation: near enough to the international tourist path that its most popular restaurant has an all-Italian menu, yet far enough away that I couldn't find one Todos Santos hotel room that fetched more than \$65 a night or featured air-conditioning.

It was in the late 1980s, locals recall, when some Mexican tourism officials started pitching Todos Santos as a burgeoning international artists' colony, a dubious claim since just about the only international artist here, then was Charles Stewart, an exile from Taos, New Mexico, who arrived with his wife, Mary Lou, in about 1985.

Yet the prophecy has gradually been fulfilled. Every year, it seems, a few more aesthetically



A street corner, with requisite cafe, in increasingly gentrified Todos Santos.

(Anacleto Rapping/Los Angeles Times)

inclined expats show up.

On Calle Topete stands one of the most recent and celebrated additions to the local boho scene, the Galeria de Todos Santos. In the front rooms of a high-ceilinged old brick building, gallery director Michael Cope last April began displaying his own work along with pieces by several accomplished Mexican and American artists.

Meanwhile, Cope and his wife, former Angelinos, are building a spacious home on "the other side," a breezy residential area on the western end of town that has become popular with Americans.

They aren't alone. Stealthily, Americans are buying land and building homes for vacation, retirement and exile, and more outsiders are surely coming soon. Though local tourism officials say the government has no major projects in the works, rumors of big-money plans are heard among the regulars in the Caffe Todos Santos.

Soon, it seems likely, Todos Santos will be a place with more restaurants, fewer idle old buildings downtown, and higher prices. Sooner or later, a big hotel is

likely to rise near the town's most popular stretch of shoreline known as Playa San Pedro, or Palm Beach.

Right now, however, the beach lies unmarked at the end of a two-kilometer-long dirt road that branches off from the highway about 5 km. south of town. The only structure in sight is a mired old ranch building, moldering among the palms and cactus.

The tourist season in Todos

September. (Map-browsers, take note: The town of Todos Santos is sometimes confused with Isla de Todos Santos, a better-known surf spot about 1,300 km north in the Bay of Todos Santos off Ensenada.)

On Calle Juarez near Degollado, you see the ruins of an old sugar-cane mill. Near Calle Marquez de Leon, there's a two-story Hotel California, which dates to 1928, and stands as the

most prominent lodging in town, with 15 rooms, wood floors, ceiling fans, pool, restaurant and, lest anyone start living too highly, an 11 p.m. guest curfew.

Farther along Juarez, at Calle Hidalgo, there's El Tecolote Bookstore, where proprietor Jane Perkins stocks a broad selection of English-language local guidebooks and volumes on Mexican geography and culture.

The sleepy artists colony of Todos Santos is on the verge of being 'discovered'

Santos begins in October (the town's biggest party of the year is the October 12 celebration of its patron saint, the Virgin of Pilar, and peaks in December, January (when there's an arts-and-crafts show) and February.)

Many businesses curtail their hours or close altogether during the hot, humid, mosquito-marred and occasionally hurricane-threatened months of July, August and

most prominent lodging in town, with 15 rooms, wood floors, ceiling fans, pool, restaurant and, lest anyone start living too highly, an 11 p.m. guest curfew.

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Home away from home — and vice versa

THE higher hotel rates climb, the more travelers are inclined to explore home exchanges. Not only does a swap save you money, but it brings you closer to the daily life of a new place and puts you in touch with local people.

But it's a bit of a risk, and before one traveler decides to swap with another, both should make sure they properly understand both each other and each other's properties.

Because these arrangements are often international and seldom include a formal written pact (often, no money changes hands), and because companies that offer exchange listings leave all deal-making and follow-through responsibilities to swappers, advance communication and courtesy are crucial.

HERE ARE some suggestions. To find the right swapping household and lay the groundwork, most families begin their planning months in advance. On an international trip, most swappers plan a stay of two to four weeks.

Early on, swappers should agree on how to handle a cancellation. You should also make sure your homeowners' insurance will cover major damage left by a house-exchange visitor and cover liability if an exchanger is injured in your house.

Leave a clean house, linens, closet and pantry space, and a note on how to operate appliances. Also write down directions to the nearest grocery store, the beach and a hospital emergency room.

If you're trading cars, too (as many households do), make sure insurance is in order and top up the tank.

Also leave phone numbers of trusted friends in case of an emergency, and agree on how to handle long-distance phone bills and replacement of any items that are broken. If you want anything off-limits, such as a rare bottle of wine, say so clearly.

THE FOLLOWING are a list of home-exchange companies in the United States. (Readers should consider this a sampling of the market, not an endorsement):

Home Exchange Network — Box 951253, Longwood, FL 32791; tel. (407) 862-7211; computer bulletin board number (407) 869-5956; Internet address: www.magicnet.net/homeexchange.

Intervac U.S. — Box 590504, San Francisco, CA 94159; tel. (800) 756-4663 or (415) 435-3497, fax (415) 435-7440.

The Invented City — 41 Sutter Street, Suite 1090, San Francisco, CA 94109; tel. (800) 788-3489 or (415) 673-0347, fax (415) 673-6909.

Teacher Swap — Box 454, Oakdale, NY 11769; tel. (516) 244-2845.

Trading Homes International — P.O. Box 787, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254; tel. (800) 877-8723 or (310) 798-3864, fax (310) 798-3865.

Vacation Exchange Club — Box 650, Key West, FL 33041; tel. (800) 638-3841 or (305) 294-1448.

(Los Angeles Times)

Anxious about air travel? Turn to airline courses

AS other passengers filed aboard US Air Flight 5001, Dorrie Laufman sat mid-way back in the coach section glancing apprehensively out the window.

Once again, her fears were building up. Her hands were tingling and her mind was racing with doubts.

What's so special about a plane taking off? On average, 19,800 passenger planes do it every day in the US alone, carrying more than 1.3 million passengers on hundreds of routes which mostly criss-cross America.

For an estimated 31 million Americans, however, the very thought of boarding one of those aircraft, strikes emotions somewhere between dread and sheer terror, and Dorrie Laufman was one of them.

When US Air 5001 returned to Baltimore-Washington International Airport an hour later that March evening, it was the first time in nine years that the Annapolis, Maryland, businesswoman had landed without its being cause for great anxiety.

"For Laufman, it all had begun with a flight when she was pregnant with her first child.

"Without realizing it, a little anxiety began to build. I didn't even think about it, but I got a bit more anxious each time," Laufman said. Soon she began to drink before and during flights. And when that didn't help any more, she tried prescription drugs. And when that didn't work, she realized she needed help.

For John Byrd, Flight 5001 was the first time the 67-year-old retired lithographer had been aloft in 47 years.

"I wanted to ease back into it, to see what it is like," the former tail gunner in a World War II torpedo plane said. "It has changed so much. I had never flown in a jet before. I just got tired of driving 12 to 15 hours everywhere."

Flight 5001 was no ordinary flight. For 27 of the passengers aboard, it was a trial, a challenge, a personal mountain to be climbed against the most daunting of odds.

Each of those 27 was afraid to fly, and US Air, through its Fearful Flyers Seminar, was trying to help them overcome their anxieties.

For some, the fears began on a turbulent flight with lightning

USAir's Fearful Flyers Seminar helps distraught passengers overcome their anxieties, Richard Weintraub reports

streaking through the sky, or when a companion's fears suddenly became their own, or with the arrival of children, or for no understandable reason at all.

But whatever the reason, a profound fear of flying came to dominate their lives, and each found his or her way to Carol Stauffer and Gary Arlington's Fearful Flyers Seminar to try to shake whatever had been making air travel traumatic, or even impossible.

Stauffer, a psychologist, is joined in this effort by a USAir pilot, currently Arlington, who flies DC-9s out of Pittsburgh for the airline.

For five weeks (and \$325, Stauffer and Arlington reassure, answer questions and slowly guide their charges into the world of flight without fear.

Twice before the final "graduation" flight the group will go aboard an aircraft, sitting and chatting, visiting the cockpit or walking around outside looking at the engines and flaps, kicking the tires.

For the first of these sessions, the door of the plane remains open, reassuring the person who is claustrophobic or, more commonly, the person who can't bear losing control. These are the two most common problems Stauffer and Arlington encounter, followed by fear of heights or of crashing and dying.

"It's the most common fear related to flying: giving up control to someone you don't know," Stauffer says. "You get on a plane, and you can't say, 'Pull over. I want to get off!'"

Stauffer believes the key to the 97 percent success rate for the seminar (as measured by the number of participants who take the graduation flight) is regular use of the relaxation tape each participant receives at the first class.

"thought-stopping" — that gives course participants tools for replacing anxiety-inducing thoughts with more reassuring ones.

As Stauffer deals directly with emotions, Arlington deals with airplanes, the people who fly and maintain them and the principles of flight.

"Fearful fliers don't dwell on statistics a lot," Arlington told the class on its second meeting, but "USAir operates 5,000 flights a day, one million a year. Industry-wide, there were more than seven million flights a year."

"If you wanted to be in an airplane accident, playing the odds, you would have to fly every day for 29,000 years," he told the class.

It's the kind of "thought-stopping" fact that Stauffer wants class participants to remember to counter the anxiety-producing thoughts that run through the

Help with fear of flying

USAir's Fearful Flyers Program costs \$325. Classes are offered in 11 US cities.

USAir also offers a book based on the program called *Fly Without Fear*. Details: Box 100, Glenshaw, PA 15116.

American Airlines' Air Born program costs \$445. *The Fearful Flyers Resource Guide*, by Barry Elkus and Murray Tieger, is sold for \$13.95 by Argonaut Entertainment, 455 Delta Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

How to Fly - Relaxed and Happy From Takeoff to Touchdown, by Natalie Windsor (Corkscrew Press), is sold for \$5.95.

Pathway Systems (P.O. Box 269, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514-0269) is a self-help program on tape, and costs \$39.

"Therapy" (4500 Campus Dr., Suite 628 F, Newport Beach, Calif. 92660) is a tape program (\$21.95) developed by a behavior therapist.

mind of the fearful flier. After a final round of relaxation exercises with Stauffer, Flight 5001 was off the ground, and the lights of the Baltimore-Washington region spread out below.

Soon noise level inside the plane began to rise as laughter mixed with expressions of relief. There was a steady stream of visitors to the cockpit, something that is permitted on these charter flights that wouldn't be allowed on regular flights.

An hour later, 5001 swung into

the approach to BWI and the lights of the runway beckoned.

John Byrd, smiling, strained to look through the open cockpit door to catch a glimpse of the fast-approaching runway lights.

For Dorrie Laufman, two fists pumping high in the air said it all.

(Washington Post)

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Ask for Romit, Tammy or Varda

David Levy just can't help being David Levy

Binyamin Netanyahu should expect nothing out of character from his new 'ally,' Sarah Honig writes

IN the old fable a scorpion on the river bank baits a frog calmly making its way in the water and asks it to give him a ride to the other side. He explains that he badly needs to get across but he can't swim.

The frog, however, is no fool and points out to the scorpion that he has a deadly reputation and will probably end up stinging his host.

"I would have to be out of my mind to do that when I am on your back away from dry land," the scorpion laughed reassuringly. "If I kill you, I go down with you." It sounded reasonable to the frog, who soon ferried the scorpion as he wished. Yet midway to their destination, the scorpion just could not help himself ... and down sank frog, scorpion and all.

Could the Likud's alignment with David Levy be its own spin on the folk tale - with party chairman Binyamin Netanyahu cast as the hopeful frog and Levy as the scorpion who cannot rise above his nature? Many in the Likud thought so this week after Levy clamored for postponing the elections. No one around Netanyahu saw it as a guileless reaction to the spate of terrorist bombings.

Indeed, it was regarded as an attempt to sting Netanyahu, clearly the one giving the lift. He is taking Levy aboard and letting him have seven safe slots on the Likud slate of Knesset candidates at the expense of the Likud's own contestants.

LEVY'S RECORD in the Likud over decades has been as troublesome as the scorpion's reputation. Not even the legendary Menachem Begin was spared. In 1981, Levy forced Begin to name him deputy prime minister. He rowed with the mild-mannered Moshe Arens, whom he derisively faulted for being a "professor." Finally in 1992, Levy contributed crucially to the Likud's downfall.

Levy was reduced to collecting entrance fees like a performer at a road show in order to keep his party from bankruptcy. The vast contributions, unlimited enthusiasm and big-name running mates he boasted of never materialized. A few days before Ariel Sharon asked to meet him and start matchmaking, Levy could not get one PR firm to take his campaign account. He went from one publicist to another, but no one would take a chance on a party whose credit wasn't good and whose prospects were even worse.

Levy's younger brother Maxim insisted that an unidentified poll promised Gesher as many as 24 Knesset seats, but the fact is that all known polls were so bleak that, if they were to be believed, there was a very real possibility that Levy's new political creation would never surmount the Knesset entry threshold.

But then Levy's worst nightmare seemed to be coming to pass: Netanyahu made a comeback in the polls. If he persisted in fighting Netanyahu and the Likud, Levy could conceivably find himself watching Netanyahu win the premiership all on his own, while he retreated humiliated and empty-handed to Beit She'an.

Sharon's call came in the nick of time. Former MK Reuven Rivlin, a Levy sidekick for years, tried to argue this week that "Levy was not teaming up with the Likud merely to cut his losses. Not at all. Levy returned home by the first Jerusalem bus blast. The terrorist offensive suddenly accentuated the distinctions between the Left and Right and Levy could no longer artificially cling to a shrinking center. He knew where he belonged."

Perhaps Levy was indeed gripped with a sudden bout of homesickness, but if he climbed somehow on the Likud bandwagon again, he could later claim a share in a Netanyahu victory, should there be one. If there isn't, no legal formulation could keep Levy from bolting the Likud once more. And he would do so at the head of a faction of at least six or seven MKs.

DESPITE THE blow to his pride inherent in having to give up the anti-Netanyahu vendetta, it's a no-lose proposition for Levy. It became so the moment the Netanyahu candidacy ceased appearing as a lost cause. But the

ghastly reality for Levy was that Netanyahu had become his political lifeline. If he was to cross the waterway, it would have to be on Netanyahu's back.

Not that Netanyahu was being altruistic. He expected to get something from the hitchhiker too. It was vital for Netanyahu, despite all the talk about resolutely standing up to political extortion, to take a chance on Levy - and pay through the nose for it - just to erase Levy's name from the prime-ministerial ballot. In what could become a photo finish, Netanyahu could not afford to have Levy chipping even at marginal support.

That could force a runoff in which Netanyahu would be at a distinct disadvantage. According to accepted political wisdom, the bulk of the haredi vote would go to Netanyahu, but the haredim would not flock to the polls in the second round, when their Knesset lists are not in the running. It was the need to have a one-on-one showdown with Shimon Peres in the first round which previously impelled Netanyahu to make a deal with Tsomet's Rafael Eitan as well.

No political observer ever believed that Levy was earnestly after the premiership or that he thought he could win it. He threw his hat in the ring only to spite Netanyahu, spoil things for him and exact sweet revenge for the decisive defeat Netanyahu dealt him in the 1993 Likud leadership primary.

Levy's hostility to Netanyahu was already apparent during the Gulf crisis. When Scud's began hitting Israel in January 1991, then foreign minister Levy was incensed by his deputy Netanyahu's telegenic appearances in the world media, and sought to muzzle him by prohibiting Netanyahu from giving any more TV interviews. Later he sulked at home and refused to go to the Madrid peace conference because Netanyahu was not named from attending.

To allay their own anxieties, many around Netanyahu point to the Rabbinowitz incident. A man who pointed a gun at Netanyahu's car in a crowded public place, Netanyahu was not hamed from attending.



Peres feud. If those two arch-rivals could coexist, they rationalize, it might be that Levy would eventually reconcile himself to Netanyahu, too. Likud pessimists, however, note that Rabin and Peres were far closer in mentality than are Levy and American-educated Netanyahu. Peres knew how to cover up his resentments. But it is hard now to picture Levy accompanying Netanyahu to campaign rallies, appearing at his side and wholeheartedly endorsing his candidacy. Levy remained surly and insolent even on the verge of striking an alliance with the Likud.

For Rabbi Carlebach, unity was worth applauding

SHARING the music and the teachings of the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach at an AACI memorial evening dedicated to the Singing Rabbi, hassidic troubadour Yitzhak Miller urged his listeners to applaud, not to signify their appreciation for his talents, but because "Shlomo used to say that when you clap, the left and the right are united."

American Citizens Abroad has recognized the long service to society of expatriate David Breslau, who has spent more than half his lifetime in volunteer service to AACI. The Jerusalem-based octogenarian who 45 years ago helped found AACI continues to donate his services to the organization. Breslau is currently spearheading a committee lobbying for a bill that will increase benefits for the elderly by providing further reductions

on property tax, public transport and entertainment.

ROYAL NEPALESE Honorary Consul-General Adina Gottesman has been very busy lately organizing a reception in honor of Nepal's National Democracy Day, while simultaneously attending to arrangements for the visit last week by Kedar Bhakta Shrestha, secretary-general of the Royal Nepalese Foreign Ministry. In

WHEN ELECTIONS are in the air, everyone in the race will do

almost anything to capture media attention. Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, while touring Kiryat Ono in the company of Mayor Dror Birbaum, stopped off at a local barber shop, not for a quick shave and haircut, but to take over the barber's role in executing a short back and sides. Whether he will get the vote of the customer in the barber's chair will presumably remain a mystery.

KIRYAT ONO had another reason for being in the news, thanks to one of its younger residents, Ron Davidson, 25, who last week became the Israel Monopoly champion by winning the finals with a tally of NIS 66,000 and four hotels. Davidson, who is studying for his master's degree in business administration at Tel Aviv University, is now gearing up for the world championship games to

be held in Monte Carlo in September.

POLITICIANS BECOME image conscious when elections are looming, but entertainers have to court the public all the time. Dudu Topaz, eager to ensure that his television ratings remain high, goes for just about every gimmick in the book. Topaz donned a Domino's Pizza uniform for a recording session, and then decided he wanted to learn how to make pizza. After mastering the technique, he began taking telephone orders. He then decided to move into the fast lane and discover what it was like to be a pizza delivery boy. The recipients could not believe their eyes when they saw who was at the door. Having successfully completed the Domino's training program, Topaz was awarded a certificate

by the company's marketing manager Ari Ben-Dror.

If the ratings drop, Topaz will now have something to fall back on.

SOME OF the leading lights of Israel's business and investment community accepted the invitation of their colleagues Aharon Zeler and Reuven Avlagon to attend an artistic fund-raiser on behalf of Ichilov Hospital.

Artists such as Menashe Kadishman, Dorit Feldman, Motti Mizrahi, Gila Stein and many others donated works which fetched around NIS 150,000. Among the guests were Avi Tomkin, Yossi Shteinman, Dani Doron, Eitan Lustig, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and Oded Ben-Ami, media adviser to the Manufacturers' Association. The funds will go toward the construction of a new wing.

THE GENEVA-headquartered

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, March 8, 1996

The Lone Ranger

ON THE AGENDA AMOTZ ASA-EL

IN a week as politically charged and emotionally draining as this one, it is difficult to discuss the new electricity concession, but the way things run here, electricity, too, is a politically and emotionally draining affair.

Political because the 12,000 employees of the Israel Electric Corporation are known to generate organizable votes; at times, in fact, they are better at that than at generating voltage. Emotional because when IEC union leader Yoram Oberkowitz is faced with Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Gedalya Gal, the one stubborn legislator who won't bow to his monopolistic robbery attempts, he is said to fume as furiously as Haman when faced with an unswerving Mordechai. And draining because this one, in all likelihood, will be won by Haman.

For Oberkowitz, among others, a 10-year extension of IEC's 70-year-old monopoly - which expired this week - is a live-or-die affair. From their point of view, there is no alternative to perpetuating the present situation by which we pay exorbitant electricity bills while they, along with their roughly 30,000 family members, pay nothing.

If, as Gal demands, the new concession will only be for six years, chances are the next government will do what this one has failed to do, namely prepare the ground for private companies to generate power for a lot more than merely 10 percent of the market, and directly, rather than through IEC, as the government's IEC-inspired bill suggests.

The pressure on Gal from his party is enormous. Considering the opposition's failure to take the lead on an issue so crucial to the economy, Gal now towers as the most effective obstacle in the way of a government determined to clutch to its bosom a mammoth whose annual sales are close to \$2 billion, whose expansion in the next seven years involves some \$1.5b. worth of investments, and whose workers' votes may prove crucial to contestants in Labor's primaries.

Hopefully, next week we will find out that Gal, a no-nonsense moshavnik who milks his cows before going to work in Jerusalem, stood his ground - and ours.

Gov't issue of IDB shares, warrants well-received on TASE

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE government's issue of 14.5 percent of Israel Discount Bank shares and warrants on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday was well received despite an otherwise negative atmosphere in the capital markets due to the security situation.

At press time, the shares' closing price was not available since the envelopes were not yet opened, but the underwriters said they expected the offering to close above the minimum price.

Shmuel Gortler, manager of Clal Issues, one of the offerings leading underwriters, said: "First indications from all banks and brokers in Israel and abroad, shows that the offering was well received."

The Israeli offering was handled by a consortium of 30-50 underwriters, led by Clal Issues, IBI, Leader Issues, and Eyal Securities.

At the minimum price, the issue

a breakthrough in the banks privatization process and also foreign investors' involvement in the capital market. The sale was planned by MI Holdings general manager Meir Jacobson, who pushed to sell 60 percent of the total shares offered to institutional investors in Europe.

Thirty-five European institutional investors pre-committed to purchase 36 million shares, at a minimum price of NIS 3.32. US investment banks Lehman Brothers and Societe Generale were chosen to handle the negotiations with foreign investors.

The foreign investors included Republic (Caucasus) Investments, the investment fund of Republic Bank which is owned by the Safra family and Rothschild Asset Management.

Next week Discount Bank's shares will be traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, five years after they ceased trading.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

MCI, News to offer satellite service: MCI Communications Corp. said yesterday its joint venture with News Corp. Ltd. will offer digital satellite services to US businesses and consumers by the end of 1997. The services will be offered on one of two satellites to be built by Loral Corp.'s Space Systems/Loral unit under a \$400 million contract.

Soaring Canal Plus big winner in digital TV deal: With a share price gain of 20 percent to a year high of 1,095 francs yesterday, Canal Plus appears to be the main beneficiary of the European digital television alliance announced on Wednesday. Havas, which has a 24 percent stake in Canal Plus and also signed the agreement with Rupert Murdoch's BSKyB and Germany's Bertelsmann, recorded a smaller rise of 7.3%.

Its rise was capped because the group led by Pierre Dautzier has to settle the thorny problem of how to deal with Havas's indirect 20.5% stake in Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Telediffusion (CLT), which lost out in the deal.

"After the fundamental accord, the market value of Canal Plus, which was 20 billion francs, could double," an analyst said.

Ciba, Sandoz merger forms Swiss drugs giant

BASLE, Switzerland (Reuters) - Swiss pharmaceutical giants Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz yesterday announced the world's biggest corporate merger, creating the number two drug company.

The new company, to be known as Novartis, said it would be second to Britain's Glaxo Wellcome in pharmaceuticals, with 4.4 percent of the world market, but it would be global leader in life sciences as a whole.

Analysts welcomed the surprise announcement of the merger, pointing out that it should fuel synergies and cut organizational costs.

"The synergies should be through increased critical mass for investments, research and development, and increased dis-

tribution and marketing power," CS Investment Research said. It said the companies estimated that the benefits from combining their operations and cost savings would be worth \$1.5 billion over the next three years.

Ciba and Sandoz said in a statement that before one-time, non-recurring transaction and restructuring costs, they expected the deal would strongly enhance earnings from the first year.

However, some analysts noted that job reductions in Switzerland required expensive social plans and said there could be some higher initial costs.

A Ciba spokeswoman said the merger would reduce the combined workforce by approximately 10%, or around 13,000.

Migdal Insurance's financial manager released on bail

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MIGDAL'S financial manager, Avraham Sinai, was released on NIS 20,000 bail at Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday after he was arrested in connection with Migdal Insurance's takeover of Ellern Investments in 1993.

The police arrested Sinai on suspicions of management offenses at the time when he served as Migdal's investment network. Sinai is also suspected of causing Bank Leumi, Migdal's parent company, to violate banking law.

The police suspect the Migdal group gained control of Ellern with financing obtained by Bank Leumi. They suspect Bank Leumi lent Migdal NIS 20m. for the takeover.

The court instructed Sinai to turn his passport over to the police. Earlier this week the court arrested and released Migdal chairman Uzi Levy on suspicion of violating the banking law, committing bank management offenses and false registration of documents.

Shekem reports drop in losses

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SHEKEM reported a drop in losses for 1995. The drop was mainly a result of cost cutting executed by its new owners, Elco Group.

The company reported a net loss of NIS 40.4m., compared with NIS 62.2m. in 1994. The company showed a significant improvement in fourth quarter earnings, a net loss of NIS 11.4m. from a net loss of NIS 57.5m. in the fourth quarter of 1994.

Management attributed the drop to efficiency measures, including a reduction in sales, management, and general expenses. Following Elco's purchase of Shekem from the government a year ago, the owners have laid off more than 1,000 workers and separated the company's activities into three divisions: food; electronics; and department stores.

Shekem sales fell 16% in 1995 to NIS 1.02m. compared with NIS 1.22m. in the same period last year. Fourth quarter sales decreased to NIS 259.2m. from NIS 297.7m. Management blamed the decline on the closure of unprofitable stores and the temporary closure of stores in order to complete renovation work.

Tambour, the paint manufacturer, reported a growth in net

increased 2.6% and export activity rose 10.7%.

Average storage time decreased to four days per ton from 4.2 days in 1994.

In early 1995, Maman and airline Arca jointly purchased 90% of Tal Limousine Service.

During 1995, Maman subsidiary Mayer Land built a 7,000 square meter storage space in the Lod northern industrial zone, which is now rented out to Maman. The company is currently negotiating with two Clal subsidiaries for the construction of a 7,600 sq.m. logistics center in Ashdod, a total investment of NIS 16m. to be divided in three parts.

In August 1995, Maman sold all its holdings in Dutch partnership IMC and the Israeli Trade Center for an estimated NIS 1.27m. The final sum has not yet been determined.

In December, Maman and LAGs (a Lufthansa subsidiary) formed GHI, a jointly held ground services company to serve Israel's airports.

United Steel Mills annual net profits rose 27% to NIS 17m. from NIS 13.3m. Revenues were NIS 467.6m. from NIS 367.7m. Earnings per share were NIS 0.30 from NIS 0.28.

The company handled a total of 184 tons in both import and export shipments, 5.4% higher than in 1994. Import activity

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FOURTH IN A SERIES. QUESTIONS FOR COMMSTOCK. Q. "I'm curious to know what the difference is, if any, between a portfolio planner and a stock broker. B.R., Kfar Shmaryahu. A. With all the specialization available today, investors can be bombarded by offers from stock brokers, fund brokers, commodities brokers and others. Each of these individuals, by definition, can sell a client investment opportunities only from one very specific realm. A portfolio planner, on the other hand, looks at the larger picture of a client's personal finances to help determine his or her personal financial goals. A young investor, for instance, might need to consider long-term goals for a growing family while someone preparing for retirement must follow a different strategy. The portfolio planner then works with the client to choose the best investment vehicles to meet specific financial requirements. It's wise to meet with a good portfolio planner to explore how a diversified portfolio can meet your needs for income, growth or a combination of the two. Do you need answers about investing? Mail or fax your questions, along with your name, address and phone number, to SUCCESSFUL INVESTING c/o CommStock Trading, POB 7777, Jerusalem, Fax: 02-244876. If your question is used in this column, you will receive a gift from CommStock! COMMSTOCK EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO SUCCEED. CommStock Trading Ltd. (Est. 1981) Portfolio Planners. Jerusalem: City Tower, 34 Ben Yehuda St. Tel. 02-244963; Fax: 02-244876. Ramat Gan: Beit Silver, 7 Abba Hillel St. Tel. 03-575-8826/27; Fax: 03-575-6990. Home-quote terminals and beepers available.

Chyron Corporation to buy 19% of RT Set. RACHEL NEIMAN. US-BASED video graphic display leader Chyron Corporation will purchase 19 percent of RT Set, a subsidiary of BVR Technologies, in return for 3% of Chyron common stock. Chyron will also have call option rights to increase its holdings in RT-Set to 51%. The value of the exchange is an estimated \$7.5m. A new class of convertible preferred share was created for the purposes of the deal. Should the enterprise fail, Chyron may buy back 40% of its stock from RT Set. Should RT Set go public the shares will be converted to common stock. Chyron will assist in marketing, sales and distribution of RT-Set's virtual studio systems and proprietary hardware. The Israeli company specializes in computer generated TV-show sets, in which actors appear to move freely in front of and between objects. RT-Set chairman Aviv Tzidon said Chyron was the "optimal choice for a strategic partnership." He added the agreement was very important with the approach of the annual National Broadcasters Association convention in April, at Las Vegas. "It places RT-Set together with Chyron at the forefront of virtual studio technology and service." In one fell swoop, said Tzidon, "we have 20 (marketing) persons at our disposal, all with Chyron's reputation and a 60% penetration of US TV studios."

Kibbutz movements told not to sign debt rearrangement plan without more information. GALIT LIPKIS BECK. PROFESSOR Uriel Procaccia, who examined the kibbutzim's bank accounts, yesterday advised the kibbutz movements not to sign the Kibbutz Debt Arrangement plan unless the banks give them all the information required to examine their bank accounts. Speaking yesterday at a conference sponsored by the Kibbutz Ha'artzi federation, Procaccia said the kibbutzim must demand a body be set up to check the kibbutz debts and supply all the kibbutzim with information regarding their bank accounts and their accumulated debts. "If they [the kibbutzim] do not do this, they may discover they were naive," he said. Procaccia said the kibbutzim should demand a clause be included in the Debt Arrangement Plan which will deal with suspicions that the kibbutzim's debts to the banks were miscalculated. He emphasized that checking the kibbutzim's alleged debts should not lead to a long delay in signing of the Debt Arrangement Plan. The plan involves write-offs totaling about NIS 6 billion for 127 kibbutzim. ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS. Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (8.3.96). Currency (deposit for): 3 MONTHS 4.27%, 6 MONTHS 4.37%, 12 MONTHS 4.50%. U.S. dollar (250,000) 4.25%, 4.12%, 4.12%. Pound sterling (£100,000) 4.25%, 1.75%, 2.00%. German mark (DM 200,000) 0.25%, 0.27%, 0.25%. Swiss franc (SF 200,000) - - - - - Yen (10 million yen) - - - - - Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (7.3.96). CURRENCIES AND TRANSFERS. Buy Sell. U.S. dollar 3.0727 3.1223. German mark 2.0708 2.1043. French franc 4.9991 4.7658. Pound sterling 0.6251 0.6149. Japanese yen (100) 2.9153 2.9524. Dutch florin 1.9487 1.8788. Swedish krona 2.5487 2.5509. Norwegian kroner 0.4488 0.4389. Danish kroner 0.4759 0.4836. Finnish mark 0.2382 0.2449. Australian dollar 0.6672 0.6730. Canadian dollar 2.2411 2.2773. New Zealand dollar 2.3468 2.3838. Australian dollar (S. African rand) 0.7810 0.8038. Australian schilling (10) 1.0376 1.0238. Italian lira (1000) 1.9056 1.9874. Jordanian dinar - - - - - Egyptian pound - - - - - Euro 3.8374 3.8993. Irish punt 4.8198 4.8876. Israeli sheqel (100) 2.4572 2.4883. BANKNOTES. Buy Sell. U.S. dollar 3.4605 3.4050. German mark 2.0708 2.1043. French franc 4.9991 4.7658. Pound sterling 0.6251 0.6149. Japanese yen (100) 2.9153 2.9524. Dutch florin 1.9487 1.8788. Swedish krona 2.5487 2.5509. Norwegian kroner 0.4488 0.4389. Danish kroner 0.4759 0.4836. Finnish mark 0.2382 0.2449. Australian dollar 0.6672 0.6730. Canadian dollar 2.2411 2.2773. New Zealand dollar 2.3468 2.3838. Australian dollar (S. African rand) 0.7810 0.8038. Australian schilling (10) 1.0376 1.0238. Italian lira (1000) 1.9056 1.9874. Jordanian dinar - - - - - Egyptian pound - - - - - Euro 3.8374 3.8993. Irish punt 4.8198 4.8876. Israeli sheqel (100) 2.4572 2.4883. * These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI.

Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 3.0990 -0.03%
Sterling NIS 4.7306 -0.23%
Mark NIS 2.0670 -0.86%

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Change. Includes NYSE, NASDAQ, S&P 500, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table with columns: NYSE/AMEX, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies.

ISRAELI OVERSEAS

Table with columns: Company Name, Last, Change. Lists companies like Alcatel, etc.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading
Commercial Banks
Name Price % Change

Table of Commercial Banks: Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, etc.

Industrial

Table of Industrial stocks: Alcatel, etc.

Mortgage Banks & Finance

Table of Mortgage Banks & Finance: Bank Leumi, etc.

Financial Institutions

Table of Financial Institutions: Bank Leumi, etc.

Insurance

Table of Insurance: Bank Leumi, etc.

Trade & Services

Table of Trade & Services: Bank Leumi, etc.

Property, Building & Agriculture

Table of Property, Building & Agriculture: Bank Leumi, etc.

Oil Exploration

Table of Oil Exploration: Bank Leumi, etc.

PARALLEL LIST

Table of PARALLEL LIST: Bank Leumi, etc.

INDUSTRIALS

Table of INDUSTRIALS: Bank Leumi, etc.

NEW YORK

Table of NEW YORK: Bank Leumi, etc.

PARIS

Table of PARIS: Bank Leumi, etc.

LONDON

Table of LONDON: Bank Leumi, etc.

PARIS

Table of PARIS: Bank Leumi, etc.

FRANKFURT

Table of FRANKFURT: Bank Leumi, etc.

NEW YORK

Table of NEW YORK: Bank Leumi, etc.

LONDON

Table of LONDON: Bank Leumi, etc.

TWO-SIDED TRADING

Two-sided trading
AFTERNOON
Name Price % Change

Table of TWO-SIDED TRADING (Afternoon): Bank Leumi, etc.

MORNING

Table of TWO-SIDED TRADING (Morning): Bank Leumi, etc.

Two-Sided Index

Table of Two-Sided Index: Bank Leumi, etc.

Maof Index

Table of Maof Index: Bank Leumi, etc.

STOCKS fell this week

STOCKS fell this week as company earnings reports disappointed investors and a string of suicide bomb attacks raised concern the peace process may be faltering.

Yesterday share indexes fell

Yesterday share indexes fell as investors sold shares to raise funds for investing in Israel Discount Bank, Israel's third largest bank in terms of assets, said analysts.

The government was due to price the sale 14.4%

The government was due to price the sale 14.4% of Discount Bank, designed to raise as much as \$134 million, later yesterday. The sale is the first government sale of a state-owned bank on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in over two years.

'People are selling shares in order to buy Discount'

'People are selling shares in order to buy Discount,' said Arieh Maoz, vice president of Tel Aviv investment firm Central Securities. 'The Discount offering is getting a lot of attention.'

The shares will begin trading early next week

The shares will begin trading early next week. Yesterday the Maof index fell 0.31% to 215.80 and the Two-Sided Index fell 0.28% to 206.11.

Shares drop amid selling to raise funds for IDB

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Shares drop amid selling to raise funds for IDB

Vertical advertisements on the right margin including 'Solidity', 'Integrity', 'And value for money', 'WE CAN', 'TOLL FREE', 'Notice To Our Readers', 'HAZORFIM', 'THE NEW Stage Managers', 'Secretary a', 'AND IN ANY OF THE OTHER SE DAHAF', 'THROUGH', 'THE COUNTRY'.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and name.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, Paris, London, Frankfurt, and New York.

London stocks close mixed

LONDON (Reuters) - Leading share prices closed mixed as uncertainty over the likelihood of a UK base rate cut helped put a lid on any tendency for the market to rise.

Blue chips close near record highs

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks staged a late rally yesterday to end within striking distance of their record highs as Wall Street braced for today's jobs data for February.

WALL STREET REPORT

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Requirements:
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 For the R&D Department
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SHAHAL
 (Continued from Page 2)
 security measures at crossings and along seam areas, Shahal said Israel would issue six more closure orders for Hamas institutions. He also noted that a police station is scheduled to open on Salah a-Din street in Jerusalem on Sunday. He warned, however, that "no one can promise, 100 percent, that no terrorist will get in."
 Uzi Landau (Likud) accused Prime Minister Shimon Peres of "choosing the wrong partner," "being divorced from reality," and ignoring earlier intelligence warnings that the autonomous areas would provide a sanctuary for terrorists.
 "[Former British prime minister Neville] Chamberlain also erred when he went to Munich to sign an agreement with Hitler," Landau said.
 Meretz faction chairman Ran Cohen called for strict measures against Hamas terrorists, including imprisonment, but warned that deportations could have a boomerang effect, as happened in 1992.
 Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen warned against casting the blame for the attacks on the all Israeli Arabs, following the discovery that one had smuggled the Dizengoff bomber in from Gaza.

CLINTON
 (Continued from Page 1)
 reassure the people of Israel that their security is important to the international community itself," McCurdy said.
 Peres, meanwhile, urged European Union states to stop "flirting" with Iran, saying it is more dangerous than Hitler because it sought to obtain nuclear weapons.
 "You must really stop flirting with the Iranians," Peres told France 2 television. "Iran is the center of terrorism, fundamentalism, and subversion."
 He said there is no doubt that Iran had armed, trained, financed, and given orders to Hizbullah in Lebanon and financed Islamic Jihad and Hamas.
 The foreign ministers of Germany and France arrived here yesterday as a dual sign of solidarity after the attacks and to urge Arafat to curb Hamas terrorism.
 German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, however, rejected the call by Peres to stop Germany's dialogue with Iran.
 "Peres asked us to isolate this country and to stop our policy of dialogue," he told reporters after meeting Peres.
 He said he told Peres there was no evidence so far that Iran was involved in the Hamas suicide bombings.
 But, Kinkel said, he assured Peres that "such evidence would force us to reconsider our relations with Iran - there is a red line."

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מזמן השכל

Betar Jerusalem gets reprieve

ORI LEWIS

AFTER a week of dreadful findings, the IFA disciplinary committee on Wednesday night relented and agreed to allow Betar Jerusalem to play this weekend's National League soccer fixture against Maccabi Herzliya with spectators.

The Jerusalemites had originally been ordered to play the match behind closed doors because of recurring crowd trouble. But in an effort to help restore a little of the capital fans' shattered morale, it was decided to allow the spectators into Teddy Stadium for the match, which is to be played tomorrow afternoon at 15:00.

With the three other top teams also playing mediocre or lowly opposition - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs Maccabi Petah Tikva, Zafirim Holon vs Maccabi Haifa and Hapoel Haifa vs Ironi Rishon - the focus of attention turns to the relegation battle, with three matches of vital importance to all the clubs involved.

Hapoel Beit She'an will hope to keep Hapoel Beersheba's negative goalscoring record intact and capitalize on their home ground advantage in a bid to leap out of the relegation zone.

Bnei Yehuda, which is precariously placed, hosts another side which could well find itself back in the Second Division next season, when it hosts Hapoel Kfar Sava at the Hatikva Quarter. Maccabi Jaffa will be looking for more vital points against its rivals at the bottom of the table when it visits Betar Tel Aviv.

Three rounds ago, Jaffa took three crucial points off Zafirim Holon, a win which could well be the one to keep it in the National League for another season.

This weekend's National League fixtures, all matches tomorrow at 15:00 unless stated, first round results in parentheses: Hap Haifa vs Ironi Rishon Lezion, Kiryat Eliezer 15:30 (2-0); Bnei Yehuda vs Hap Kfar Sava, Hatikva Quarter 18:00 (1-0); Mac Tel Aviv vs Mac Petah Tikva, Bloomfield 16:00 (3-0); Bet Tel Aviv vs Mac Jaffa, Bloomfield 14:00 (0-1); Hap Beit She'an vs Hap Beersheba, Beit She'an (1-3); Bet Jerusalem vs Mac Herzliya, Teddy Stadium (3-2); Hap Petah Tikva vs Hap Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva (0-0); Zafirim Holon vs Mac Haifa, Holon, today 15:00 (1-2).

England hopes to halt Lanka surge

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (Reuters) - England has carefully studied videos of Sri Lanka's swashbuckling batsmen and is confident it can stop the islanders going on another run rampage in the World Cup quarter-final tomorrow.

"It will be a challenge, there's no doubt about that," England captain Mike Atherton said.

"The Sri Lankans are obviously playing well, but it is up to us to counter them. We have been studying their matches on television and we have videos of their efforts in the World Series in Australia. We are very confident we can stop them."

The Sri Lankans have set the tournament alight with blazing batting displays and rewrote the record books on Wednesday by hammering the highest one-day international total of 398 for five in their 50 overs against Kenya.

While most countries have used one player, usually from the lower order, to boost its early scoring rate when fielding restrictions are in force, all of Sri Lanka's top six have set about the bowling from the first ball.

Sri Lankan team manager Duleep Mendis has given his batsmen a target of 100 runs in the first 15 overs of their innings - a blistering start designed to spread panic in the opposition ranks. In their Group A matches against India and Kenya, Sri Lanka raced past that figure and notched up convincing victories that established them as genuine World Cup contenders.

By contrast, England's form was checked in the league stage of the tournament. It managed only two wins in five matches

and it was against minnows the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates.

The quarter-finals herald a change in the way teams approach matches. In the league part of the tournament, teams can lose but pull themselves up with a win in the next game. Now it is win or catch the next plane home.

Atherton believes this will get the adrenaline flowing in his players. "It's a good thing we have got through to the knockout stages as everyone knows the serious stuff starts now," he said.

"The rehearsals are over and these games are for keeps. That will mean these games will be more tense, but I think that will be good for us as it could get the adrenaline flowing a bit more."

"Mistakes will be decisive and if we reach 150 odd for no wicket as we did against Pakistan, we have got to make it pay. I hope the increased tension will bring out the best in my players because they all know any cock-up could cost us everything."

All-rounder Dominic Cork, who could be vital to English efforts to keep Sri Lanka in check, is a fitness worry.

Cork, England's leading bowler for the past eight months, is due to have a fitness test on a sore right knee today.

Atherton tried to play down Cork's importance to his side's chances.

"The first 15 overs of their innings will be crucial and Dominic's role then will be important, but if he's not fit it is not the end of the world," said the England skipper.

Atherton accepted England were the underdogs on current form but added: "In these oneoff games, form can count for lit-

tle and it is how you play on the day which is important."

One factor in England's favor could be the difference in buildup that the two sides have had for the match.

While England has been in Karachi for the past three days practicing, Sri Lanka has faced some arduous traveling.

The Sri Lankans played India in New Delhi last Saturday and then flew back to Colombo for Wednesday's match against Kenya. They had to travel by helicopter to and from the match venue at Kandy.

On Wednesday evening they had to fly to Karachi for an overnight stop before traveling to Faisalabad for the big match on Saturday.

SRI LANKA - Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Aravinda de Silva, Asanka Gurusinha, Roshan Mahanama, Sanath Jayasuriya, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Marvan Atapuma, Upul Chandana, Pramodya Wickremasinghe, Chaminda Vaas, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Kumara Dharma Sena, Muthuhasan Tillekeratne.

ENGLAND - Mike Atherton (captain), Alec Stewart, Rohan Smith, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Jack Russell, Dermot Reeve, Dominic Cork, Darren Gough, Peter Martin, Phillip DeFreitas, Richard Illingworth, Neil Smith.

India-Pakistan Pakistan is prepared to risk captain Wasim Akram in its crunch quarter-final with India today in Bangalore, India even if he has not fully recovered from a strained side he suffered against New Zealand on Wednesday.

Akram was absent as his colleagues had

their first practice session on Indian soil, but coach Intikhab Alam said the key all-rounder was undergoing treatment and was likely to play tomorrow.

"We can't afford not to play him. This is make or break," said Intikhab. "He had an injection after the game on Wednesday and he should be okay. I think he will play."

Pakistan has not played a Test in India since early 1987, but has been encouraged by its initial reception following its arrival in Bangalore via Delhi.

Both Intikhab and Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said they hoped the game would open the way to a resumption of Test competition between the two countries.

"I think coming here will definitely help. It's good for cricketers and it's good for our countries," said Intikhab.

"But we don't expect any problems. From what we have seen the people have been very good."

A former leg-spinner himself, the Pakistan coach is convinced the pitch at the Chinnaswamy Stadium will turn and hinted that off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq might be drafted in, although the final team will not be announced until match-day.

Two thousand security personnel have been called up for the match and, although 3,000 tickets have been requested for Pakistani supporters, Bangalore's deputy police commissioner G.K. Bekal is not expecting any trouble inside the stadium.

"At this moment in time, we don't anticipate any problems."

"We will see the game goes off very safely," he said.

UConn opens Big East Tourney with win

NEW YORK (AP) - Connecticut didn't shoot well and still found a way to win by 21 points.

The third-ranked Huskies, with conference player of the year Ray Allen struggling through a 4-for-17 shooting effort, beat Seton Hall 79-58 yesterday in the quarter-finals of the Big East tournament.

All the missed shots did give the top-seeded Huskies (28-2) a chance to display their rebounding prowess and Travis Knight led them with 19 rebounds.

Other quarter-final matchups slated for last night were Villanova against Providence, No. 13 Syracuse (23-7) against Boston College (18-9), and No. 6 Georgetown (24-6) against Miami (15-12).

Providence advanced with an 80-72 victory over St. John's in the final game of Wednesday's opening round. In other first-round games, Syracuse defeated Notre Dame 76-55, Boston College eliminated Pittsburgh 70-66 and Miami ousted Rutgers 77-67.

"I was exhilarated with the way we ran and played so hard," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "We wouldn't have had as many rebounds if there hadn't had been so many misses but the ball just didn't drop."

The Huskies, who broke their own record for conference wins this season with 17, will meet the winner of the game between Syracuse and Boston College in Friday night's semifinals.

Many people thought the un-Connecticut-like performance against Seton Hall (12-16) may have had to do with thoughts of another tournament.

"We do want to win this tournament, no doubt," Calhoun said. "Still, the No. 1 priority for us is down the road. Believe me, we were trying today."

Doron Sheffer had 19 points, Knight 12 and Allen 11 for the Huskies, who shot 39 percent (30-for-77), while the Pirates finished at 28 percent (19-for-67).

"The ball just didn't fall for me," said Allen, a 50 percent shooter during the season. "We got a win and we'll take that. The ball will fall down the line."

The Huskies took a 39-24 halftime by closing the half with a 7-0 run, the last four points coming from Allen, who missed his first seven shots of the game.

The lead stayed around 15 points as neither team was able to really get anything going. The score stayed 66-50 for three minutes as a combined nine possessions came up empty as far as points were concerned.

"I thought we played good defense and we could have been in it at halftime if we had played better on offense," Seton Hall coach George Blaney said. "We had five or six fast break opportunities where we came up empty and you can't do that against that kind of team."

Connecticut beat Seton Hall 79-58 last Saturday in the final game of the regular season.

Kirk King added 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Huskies, who finished with a 59-43 rebound advantage, 29-22 on offense.

"All those misses had a lot to do with the rebounds but it's also hard work," said Knight, whose previous career best was 16 rebounds earlier this season. "All rebounding is is who wants the ball and who will go for it."

Adrian Griffin, who won ninth-seeded Seton Hall's opening-round game against West Virginia with a basket with one second to play, led the Pirates with 16 points and 13 rebounds, while Bayonne Taty had 12 points.

ON WEDNESDAY Seton Hall 80, West Virginia 78 Adrian Griffin's basket with one second left to play rescued Seton Hall after the Pirates twice led 11-point leads get away in the second half. No. 13 Syracuse 76, Notre Dame 55

After struggling through the first half when it shot just 27 percent, Syracuse pulled away against Notre Dame as John Wallace scored 32 points.

Boston College 70, Pittsburgh 66 The Eagles went through an offensive dry spell, but were saved by Antonio Granger's 3-pointer with 1:15 left, his only basket of the game. Keenan Jordan led BC with 19 points, and Danae Abrams had 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Miami 77, Rutgers 67 Kevin Norris saved Miami after the Huskies let most of a 16-point second-half lead get away against Rutgers. With the Scarlet Knights trailing 63-62, Norris ran off 11 straight, including six in a row from the foul line. He finished with 20.

Providence 80, St. John's 72 Austin Crossbreed and Ruben Garces led Providence with 17 points each, and Jamal Thomas had 15 off the bench. St. John's was led by Hamilton's 20 points and 18 by Lopez.

Foreigners packing their bags in terror aftermath

THE LOCAL SCENE HEATHER CHAIT

IT was inevitable. The scars left on Israeli society after the past two weeks did not spare the sports world.

Hungarian soccer players are checking for loopholes in their contracts, American and Italian tennis players in the international satellite in Haifa made their get-aways after losing, without a second thought to next week's tournament, and the Tel Aviv Marathon, scheduled for March 15 has been postponed to April 19.

But slowly, the sports scene resumes its course.

Quiet rackets Eyal Ran and Eyal Erlich, Israel's No. 1 and 2 players respectively for next month's Davis Cup tie against Spain in Ramat Hasharon, both lost their matches in the early rounds of tournaments this week.

Ran (164 in the world), playing in a \$330,000 tournament in Mexico City, lost to qualifier Luis Lobo from Argentina in the first round, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6 while Erlich (third seed, 264) also lost to a qualifier, Ivan Lukacs from Hungary in the second round of the Cluh Hotel Eilat satellite in Haifa.

Israelis who reached today's quarter-finals (which were washed out yesterday) are Noam Behr (297), Nir Welgreen (442) and Raviv Weidenfeld. Behr will now play Bing Pan from China who won the first leg of the satellite last week.

In the women's satellite also in Haifa, top seed Hila Rosen and Tzippi Ohzler will meet each other today in the quarter-finals.

Windsurfing test Haifa's Bat Galim beach (instead of the Quiet Beach which has not paid its municipal debts) will host 250 windsurfers from 50 countries in the all-important World Windsurfing Championships from March 15-24.

This is the last major tournament before the Olympics and while that means a lot for the world's windsurfers, it means more for Amit Inbar and Gal Friedman. One of them will be chosen to represent Israel in Atlanta.

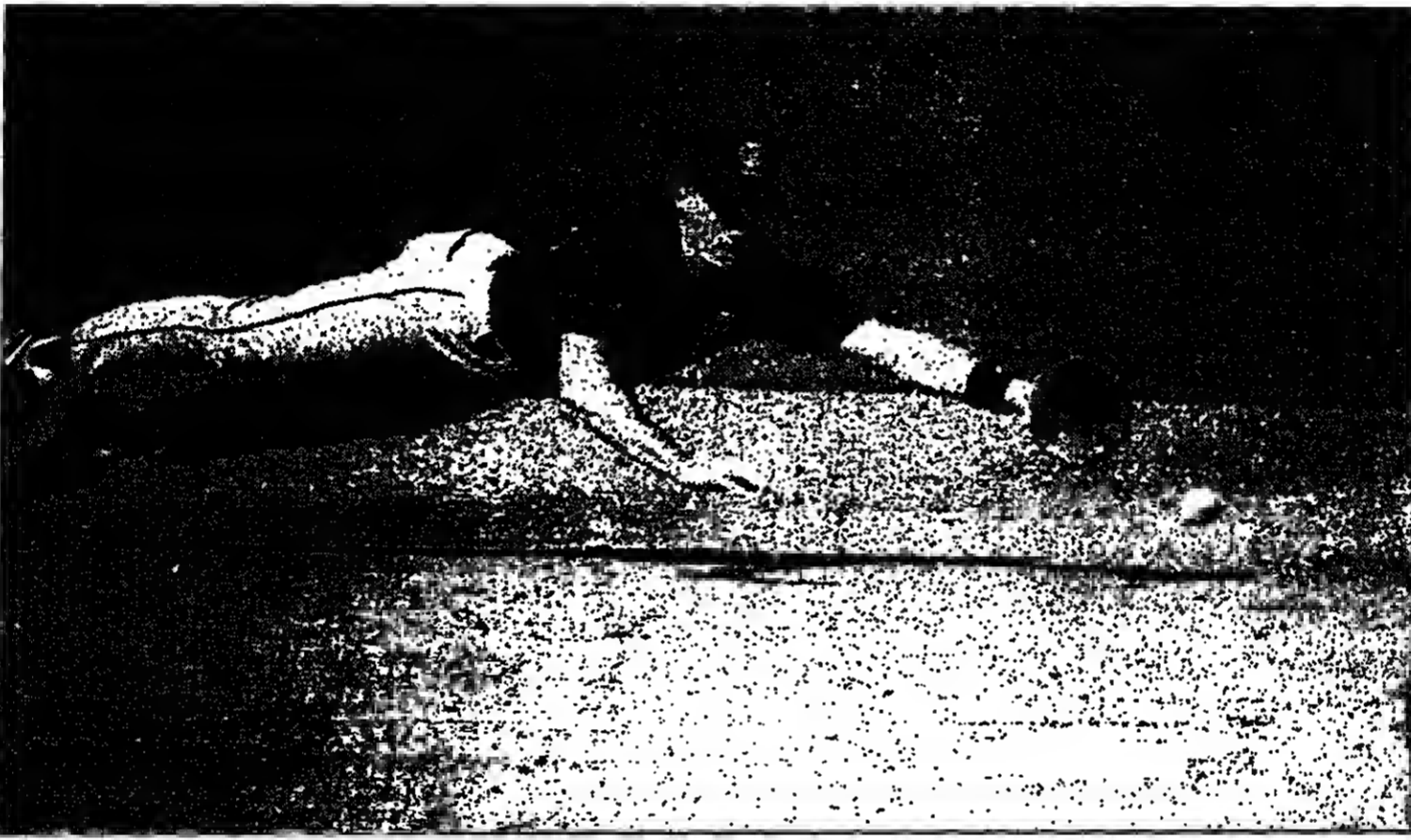
Outvaulted! Pole vaulter Danny Krasnov was beaten at what he does best - another Israeli. At a tournament held in wet conditions at Hadar Yosef, new immigrant Constantin Simyonev beat Krasnov in the first clash ever between the two. Krasnov cleared between the two, Krasnov cleared 5.3 meters but chose to skip 5.40 when Simyonev passed. When Krasnov's turn at 5.50 came, he failed on all three attempts, which left Simyonev the winner with his 5.40 jump.

Just misses the podium Fifth place for Judoka Einat Yaron in a tournament in Hungary. After losing her first fight, Yaron picked herself up and won her next three fights to make a claim for third place. Her last fight was against Holland's European champion, Jessica Bell, who edged Yaron into fifth place.

SCOREBOARD

NHL - Wednesday's results: Detroit 4, Hartford 2; Toronto 2, New Jersey 2; Dallas 2, Sharks 1; Canucks 5, Sabres 2; Los Angeles 3, Oilers 2.

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor



MID-SEASON FORM - California Angels shortstop Gary DiSarcina goes after a ball hit by Seattle's Edgar Martinez in an exhibition game in Peoria, Arizona. DiSarcina threw out Martinez.

Ajax reverses bad form to win away

LONDON (Reuters) - Ajax Amsterdam dispelled growing doubts about its ability to retain the European Cup with a 2-0 away victory over Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday that should see them through to the semifinals.

Borussia, down to 10 men for the last 24 minutes of its quarter-final first leg after midfielder Matthias Sammer was sent off for a second bookable offense, face an uphill battle in the return in Amsterdam on March 20.

Midfielder Edgar Davids settled Ajax, who have stumbled through some poor results this year including two league defeats, with a goal in the eighth minute.

Teenage striker Patrick Kluivert scored the second seven minutes from time as Ajax extended its record unbeaten run in the European Cup to 18 matches, showing an enviable strength in depth.

Teenage striker, Raul Gonzalez, scored in the 21st minute to give record six times winners Real Madrid a 1-0 victory over Juventus in their Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

The one-goal lead may not, however, be enough when Real

travels to Turin for the second leg. "Real played a superb first half. We relaxed a bit in the second but I think we deserved another goal," coach Arsenio Iglesias said.

Juventus hopes to have injured striker Gianluca Vielli back in action by the time, while Real will be without big Spanish international defender Fernando Hierro, who will be suspended after picking up a second booking.

Whoever of Juventus or Real go through, they will avoid Ajax in the semifinals. The Dutch, assuming they qualify, will come up against either Greek champions Panathinaikos or Legia Warsaw, who drew 0-0 in Poland.

Nantes ended the unbeaten run of Spartak Moscow, impressive in the group stage but weakened by the loss of top players, with a 2-0 home victory that makes the French side favorites to progress to a semifinal against Juventus or Real.

But Nantes, which scored through Japhet N'Doram and Nicolas Ouedec in the 28th and 65th minutes, will be without midfielder Reynald Pedros in Moscow. He was sent off in the 75th minute for kicking Spartak defender Dmitry Ananko.

QPR at relegation's edge

LONDON (Reuters) - Ghanaian striker Tony Yeboah pushed Queen's Park Rangers closer to relegation from the Premier League when he scored both Leeds United's goals in their 2-1 win over the London side on Wednesday.

Yeboah, who joined Leeds for £3.4 million from Eintracht Frankfurt last year, took his tally for the season to 19 goals with strikes after 10 and 25 minutes.

Rangers pulled one back through Kevin Gallen after 30 minutes, but wasted the chance of a point when Gallen missed a second-half penalty - Rangers' third penalty miss of the season.

Aston Villa, who meet Leeds in the League Cup final later this month, added to Sheffield Wednesday's relegation worries with a 3-2 win at Villa Park - Wednesday's sixth defeat in its last seven league matches.

There was an astonishing scoring spell midway through the second half with three goals in three minutes.

Dutchman Regi Blinker, who signed for Wednesday for £1m from Feyenoord last week, opened the scoring for his new club after only eight minutes of his debut.

Villa's Serb striker Savo Milosevic then scored twice in two minutes in the 61st and 62nd minutes to put Villa 2-1 ahead.

Bullets silence Sonics' boom

LANDOVER (AP) - Seattle's franchise-record 14-game winning streak came to an end Wednesday night as the SuperSonics had their worst shooting night of the season in a 99-88 loss to the Washington Bullets.

Seattle shot a season-low 29.8 percent (25-for-84) from the field and had its third-lowest point total of the season.

It was the first loss since February 1 for Seattle, which trailed by at least 10 throughout the fourth quarter. Washington beat the Sonics for the first time in nearly nine years and only the second time in the last 22 matchups between the teams.

Juwan Howard had 21 points and 11 rebounds and Rasheed Wallace added 20 points, seven rebounds and four blocks for the Bullets, who won their third straight game and broke a 13-game losing streak to the Sonics dating back to 1987.

Jazz 101, Pacers 94 Karl Malone had 34 points and 20 rebounds and Utah took advantage of an off night by Reggie Miller to win its fifth straight.

It was the 19th victory in 23 games for the Jazz, who stayed one game ahead of San Antonio in the Midwest Division race.

Miller was just 5-of-20 from the field and missed a 3-pointer and committed a turnover in the final minute. He and Rik Smits had 16 points apiece for the Pacers, who lost their second straight game after winning six in a row.

Jeff Hornacek had 23 points and John Stockton had 19 points and 12 assists for Utah.

Spurs 100, Nuggets 90 Host San Antonio beat Denver for the 10th straight time, winning despite losing David Robinson in the second period.

Robinson lacerated his finger trying to block a shot by Bryant Stith. He needed stitches to close the wound and did not return, finishing with six points to end his 157-game streak of reaching double figures in points.

Vony Del Negro paced the Spurs with 29 points, including three straight baskets as San Antonio opened the second half with 10 points in a row for a 61-50 lead. Denver never made a serious run in the second half.

The Nuggets were led by rookie Antonio McDyess with 16 points, although he left in the third period with a broken nose after colliding with teammate Dikembe Mutombo.

Knicks 89, Raptors 82 Hubert Davis scored a season-high 30 points to lead visiting New York to just its second win in eight games.

Davis, who had a season-high 25 points in Tuesday's loss to the Los Angeles Clippers, matched that total in the first half alone as he went 8-of-11 from the floor and 5-of-8 from 3-point range.

Patrick Ewing had 17 points and 13 rebounds to move past Willis Reed into first place on the Knicks career rebounding list with 8,415.

Toronto made it close in the final minutes as Damon Stoudamire nailed a jump shot to cut the lead to 86-80 with just over a minute to play. But Derek Harper followed with a 21-footer to dash Toronto's comeback hopes.

Celtics 110, Clippers 97 Greg Minor scored 20 points. Todd Day added 17 and Eric Montross had 15 points and 15 rebounds to lead Boston to a home win.

Boston led by 11 at the start of the fourth quarter and quickly stretched its advantage to 21 on a basket by Day that made it 105-84. The Celtics out-rebounded the Clippers 48-37 and scored 22 points off 18 turnovers to send Los Angeles to its eighth loss in its last nine road games.

Brian Williams led the Clippers with 19 points and Terry Dehere and Pooh Richardson added 15 each.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Orlando	45	15	.750	
New York	34	25	.576	10 1/2
Miami	28	32	.467	17
Washington	27	33	.450	18
New Jersey	24	34	.414	20
Boston	22	38	.367	23
Philadelphia	11	47	.190	33
Central Division				
Chicago	33	6	.898	
Indiana	38	22	.633	15 1/2
Cleveland	33	25	.569	19 1/2
Atlanta	32	26	.552	20 1/2
Detroit	32	26	.552	20 1/2
Charlotte	28	30	.483	24 1/2
Milwaukee	21	37	.362	31 1/2
Toronto	15	43	.259	37 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Utah	41	17	.707	
San Antonio	40	18	.690	1
Houston	40	20	.667	2
Denver	34	34	.500	17
Dallas	21	37	.362	20
Minnesota	19	40	.322	22 1/2
L.A. Clippers	11	48	.193	29 1/2
Pacific Division				
Seattle	45	13	.780	
L.A. Lakers	38	21	.643	9
Phoenix	30	28	.517	15 1/2
Golden State	27	32	.469	18
Sacramento	25	31	.446	19 1/2
Portland	26	34	.438	20 1/2
L.A. Clippers	20	39	.338	28

Branco attracts big crowd

LONDON (Reuters) - More than 15,000 Middlesbrough fans turned out to watch Brazilian international Branco play for the reserves on Wednesday, but he could do nothing to stop his side losing 2-0 in Leicester City.

Matches in the Central League between reserve sides rarely attract more than a few hundred diehards at the most, but the huge attendance meant the kick-off was delayed for 15 minutes.

Branco, who arrived in England a week ago, had a quiet game, though the crowd roared in anticipation whenever the former World Cup winner prepared to take one of his trademark free-kicks.

Branco, 31, gained match fitness and could make

his full debut for Middlesbrough against West Ham at Upton Park tomorrow. He had a 10-minute substitute appearance against Everton last Saturday.

Branco was overwhelmed at the size of the 15,143 crowd, the highest for a second team game in Middlesbrough's history.

"I thought the support was magnificent," he said. "It was beautiful so many fans turned out."

"The spirit among the Middlesbrough players is good. Once we get a win, everything will change."

Middlesbrough, which was fifth in the Premier League on December 24, has dropped dramatically to 13th, picking up only one point from a possible 30 in its last 10 games.

Amir: I wanted to kill Rabin

RAINE MARCUS

YIGAL Amir completed his testimony in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday, declaring that he had indeed intended to kill Rabin, justifying his actions, and arguing with the judge.

"If the legal system would have operated correctly over these past three years, there would have been no need to kill Rabin," Amir said. "Shut up - you have such a nerve!" Judge Edmond Levy shouted.

Amir laughed and Levy found it difficult to contain his anger.

"I don't understand what this Jew finds so amusing," Levy said. "A live human being has gone on to the next world. And you call yourself religious."

"A whole nation is going to the next world," Amir retorted. "Thousands are being murdered here daily because of this government's policy."

When asked if she had further questions, District Attorney representative Penina Guy replied that the cross-examination had ended in order to keep the peace.

Amir said he had waited for a sign from God to kill the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"If police would have moved me on from the parking lot, I would have taken that as a sign, too, and would have waited for another opportunity," he told the court. "I waited in the parking lot for 40 minutes."

During his second day of testimony, he also said that he had intended to shoot Rabin in the head but was unable to do so since the late prime minister was flanked by guards. Therefore, he was forced to aim at Rabin's back.

Yesterday's testimony may have put an end to intended defense arguments by Amir's lawyers.

Shmuel Fleisbman and Gabi Shabar, that he did not mean to kill Rabin, but merely paralyze him in order to end the peace process.

When asked by Guy why he did not shoot then-foreign minister Shimon Peres, who went down the stairs before Rabin at the end of the Tel Aviv peace rally last November 4, Amir replied, "Peres did not deserve the honor I reserved for Rabin."

"When he [Peres] went down the stairs, I thought how easy it would be to kill him," Amir added. But he decided to kill Rabin first and then, if the opportunity arose, to kill Peres.

Amir also described the emotional and "mystical" drive which he said urged him to kill Rabin. "My emotions have been drained these past three years," he said. "It's like a mother who sees that someone wants to kill her children and thus shoots without sentiment or feeling."

He also denied that he is "psychopathic or apathetic," saying he was "simply someone who cares."

"Today everyone is talking about Yigal Amir," he added. "Let's see if in another three years everyone doesn't end up as bars of soap. In another few years, everyone will thank me for what I did." "I don't mind sitting in jail for the sake of our country," he added.

On Sunday the trial will resume, with lawyers summoning defense witnesses. The defense lawyers are still waiting for a court decision on whether they can summon independent psychologists who may prove "diminished responsibility" despite a report by court-appointed psychiatrists ruling that Amir is sane.



Thousands of Hassidim attend the funeral of Rabbi Pinhas Menachem Alter in Jerusalem yesterday. (Israel Hatzar)

'Gur rebbe died from anguish over terror'

JUDY SIEGEL

THE sudden death of Rabbi Pinhas Menachem Alter, the rebbe of Gur and president of Agudat Yisrael's Council of Torah Sages, shocked his hundreds of thousands of Hassidim and sympathizers in Israel and around the world yesterday.

The 69-year-old rebbe, who took over the Gur dynasty almost four years ago at the death of his half-brother Simcha Bunim, had asthma, but his Hassidim attributed his death - in his sleep - to his anguish over the loss of life in the recent wave of terror attacks.

A journalist at *Hamodia*, the Agudat Yisrael daily, said that at the rebbe's Shushan Purim *tsich* on Wednesday, "he had difficulty speaking and seemed very drained. He barely handed out pieces of his food to his followers. The rebbe spoke repeatedly about being unable to witness more tragedies."

On Monday, after the second terror attack on Jerusalem's bus No. 18, *Hamodia* published a front-page joint appeal by Alter and the Wiznitsky rebbe, Rabbi Moshe Hager, to ensure the unity of the Jewish people and a return to religion. "Enough with the arguments among us," they declared. Yesterday morning, his wife Tzipora, was worried when he did not wake up as usual at 5 a.m., and found him

dead.

According to Hassidim, no discussion of a new rebbe will be raised until the end of shiva. They did not know if he left a will designating his successor. When the previous rebbe died in his 90s in 1992, his son Rabbi Ya'acov - head of the Maor Yisrael Yeshiva in Bnei Brak - was passed over, and Pinhas Menachem was chosen to carry on.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh gave special permission for the burial to take place in the courtyard of Yeshiva Sfat Emet in the Geula quarter (rather than in a cemetery) alongside the grave of his father, a previous rebbe, Avraham Mordechai. He had died during the War of Independence, and due to the fighting, his body could not be taken to the Mount of Olives for burial.

According to Dr. Menachem Friedman, an Orthodox sociologist at Bar-Ilan University and a distant cousin of the rebbe, the Hassidic dynasty originated in the mid-19th century in the town of Gur (Ger in Yiddish), some 30 kilometers southeast of Warsaw. Although numerous Hassidim moved to Palestine in the

1930s and '40s, many others met their deaths in the Holocaust, and the community was decimated.

Avraham Mordechai arrived here in 1940. The Hassidic court flourished under his son, Rabbi Yisrael Alter, and brothers Simcha Bunim and Pinhas Menachem, reportedly becoming the largest Hassidic community in Israel, with some 30,000 affiliated families in Jerusalem, Bnei Brak, Tel Aviv, Hatzor in the Galilee, Kiryat Gat, Arad, and Ashdod. There are also numerous enclaves in New York, Belgium, Canada, and other countries.

Pinhas Menachem urged his Hassidim not only to study Torah, but to work at a trade, and he also advised them to purchase land and "redeem the Land of Israel." According to Friedman, he was a "very Israeli" rebbe, speaking fluent Hebrew without a Yiddish accent due to his arrival here as a youngster. He was on the right of the political spectrum and was skeptical of the peace process, but had not voiced his prime ministerial preference for the upcoming elections.

He is survived by his wife, four sons and a daughter; two other sons died young, one from an illness and the other in a traffic accident.

WEATHER

Tel Aviv	8-17
Jerusalem	8-17
Haifa	8-15
Safed	8-15
Be'er Sheva	8-14
Dead Sea	12-20

Forecast: Rain will stop. Sabbath: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	14	cloudy
Berlin	10	14	clear
Bombay	21	28	clear
Calcutta	21	28	clear
Chicago	10	14	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	14	cloudy
Helsinki	10	14	cloudy
Hong Kong	20	28	cloudy
London	10	14	cloudy

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VALID 15/1/96 - 15/3/96

Ya'acobi new chairman of IEC

THE board of directors of the Israel Electric Corporation decided yesterday to select UN Ambassador Gad Ya'acobi as its new board chairman.

The appointment of Ya'acobi, 61, was made on the recommendation of the energy and finance ministers, and with the knowledge of the prime minister. It was approved unanimously.

Until he completes his UN post on May 1, Ya'acobi will only devote part of his time to the IEC job, without pay. As of May 1, he will serve in the post full-time. (Iim)

Surrogacy bill passes 3rd reading

JUDY SIEGEL

A BILL legalizing surrogate motherhood, passed by the Knesset on second and third readings yesterday, was called "unique in the world and a medical and legislative breakthrough," by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh.

The controversial bill was approved 44-12, with three abstentions.

The compromise bill, worked out in the Labor and Social Affairs Committee, was the result of work by the Aloni Commission on Surrogacy, which presented its recommendations over a year ago.

A law was required after the High Court of Justice several months ago struck down Health Ministry regulations that barred surrogacy arrangements. These rules, prohibiting another woman from carrying the fetus of commissioning parents, expired Wednesday by order of the court.

According to the new law, the commissioning father must be the supplier of the sperm that fertilizes the ovum; this egg must come either from the commissioning mother or from a donor who is not the surrogate mother.

Another section of the law

declares that the surrogate mother must be unmarried - unless an approval committee agrees "in special cases" to allow an exception.

Other changes made in the original bill allow the surrogate mother to change her mind and ask to keep the baby, but only if a court approves. The surrogate mother - as a single woman - would also be entitled to abort the fetus; according to the existing abortion law, a pregnant woman who is unmarried may undergo an abortion.

Surrogacy arrangements will be strictly supervised by a committee comprised of two gynecologists/obstetricians; one internal medicine specialist; a clinical psychologist; a social worker; a public representative who is a lawyer; and a clergyman (of the same religion as the parties involved). The meetings of this committee will be held behind closed doors, and no information about the parties involved may be made public without court permission. The committee will approve

surrogacy arrangements only if persuaded that all sides reached agreement out of their own free will and understand its significance; there is no fear for the health of the surrogate mother or the welfare of the baby to be born; and no conditions harming the rights of the child or of the other parties are included.

The committee may allow monthly payment during pregnancy to the surrogate mother (for legal and insurance expenses and compensation for her time, loss of income, and pain. She will also be entitled to paid maternity leave and a one-time birth grant from the National Insurance Institute, while the commissioning mother is entitled to an NII birth allowance.

Within a week of the birth, the commissioning parents will formally request a declaration of parentage from a court; in the meantime, a social worker will temporarily be the baby's guardian.

The Israel Women's Lobby strongly opposed the bill, calling it "immoral and in rejection of formidable social norms."

NEWS IN BRIEF

International Women's Day today
Today is International Women's Day, but it will be celebrated here on Monday, too. Among today's events is a symposium at Tel Aviv University entitled "Women in an Election Year - A New Era?" *Esther Hecht*

Jerusalem-TA trains not running
Due to engineering and development work, there will be no trains on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv line from today until March 23. *Sybil Ehrlich*

Man held for planning to put curse on Peres
Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday extended by seven days the remand of Avigdor Eskin, a former Kach acolyte suspected of incitement to harm the prime minister. Eskin allegedly planned to hold a religious ceremony to put a curse on Shimon Peres, similar to the one he placed on the late Yitzhak Rabin.
Eskin was taken off a plane about to leave for Russia by police, who said his actions were a threat to public safety. Eskin said he had received hundreds of requests to perform the ceremony in light of the recent attacks, but said he did not plan to perform it.

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Members and friends are invited to a Luncheon Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 1996, at 1:00 p.m. at Beit Wizo, 38 King David Blvd., Tel-Aviv

Guest Speaker
H.E. The British Ambassador
MR. DAVID MANNING CMG

Subject:
"BOSNIA - IRELAND - ISRAEL" THE "PEACE" PROCESSES

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Stormy weather expected to ease off

DAVID RUDGE

HEAVY rain and strong winds swept the country yesterday causing flooding in several places and bringing traffic to a halt. However, the wintry weather is expected to gradually die out today and be replaced tomorrow by partly cloudy conditions and warmer temperatures.

The rain turned to hail in many places, while heavy snow closed the Mount Hermon ski site. Police reported numerous weather-related accidents and advised motorists to take extra care.

Traffic lights were knocked out

in several towns and cities and part of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway near the Castel was partially blocked by falling stones.

The Israel Electric Corporation automatically operated gas turbines to boost production to meet increased demand because of the cold and stormy conditions. There were reports that power supplies were cut in some areas, but normal services were resumed gradually once the backup turbines

were operated. Despite all of the problems, the brief return of winter was warmly welcomed by Mekorot, which reported that all of its reservoirs, particularly in the country's north and center, were empty due to the lower than average precipitation and long dry spells this winter.

Rafi Boaz, head of Mekorot's water resources department, said that despite the latest rain the level of water in Lake Kinneret was still 1.46 meters from its maximum mark.

Shuhua H. GUIDA

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